

There begynneth the holy lyfe and hystory
of saynt werburge very frutesfull
for all christen people
to rede.

WILLIAM
his lake as per it 08-1598 Jan 1 752

[illegible]


720

Margues Doncaster

The prologe of J. C. in the honour & laude of saint
Werburge/and to the prayse of y^e translatour
of the legende folowynge.

Honour/joye/and glorie/the toynes organ/call
Endeles myrthes wth melodies/prayse ye all y^e princes
And illshed in vertue/intact/as pure as crist all
Refese to all synners/o Werburge lady maistres
In grace thou passed/all other and in goodnes
Whan thou was present in this mundayne lyfe
None was the lyke/wydwome/mayde/ne wyfe

By duryne grace/to vs a ryche present
Reioyce we may/in Werburge one and all
Agemme of vertue/a birgin resplendent
Dilect of our lord(e) in ioye and blis eternall
Surely she is set) to intercede and call
Her mouth nat cessyng/for them to eall and crye
And in her trust/of synne to haue mercy

**O** good lady maistres/declayne thy syght a fer
And graciously beholde / thy seruaunt chaste and pure
Henry Bradsha / sometyme monke in Chester
Whiche only for thy loue/toke the payne and labour
Thy legende to translate / he dyd his busy cure
Out of latine/in English he rude ande and vyle
Whiche he hath amended/with many an oynate stile

Mas of Chester/ye monkes haue lost a treasure
Henry Bradsha / the styre of eloquence
Chester thou may wayle / the deth of this floure

So may the citezens / alas for his absence
So may many other / for lacke of his sentence
O were lady Werburge / an holy Abbasse glorious
Remembze Henry Bradsha / thy seruaunt most gracio^s

In hym remayned no vice ne presumption
Enuy and wraath / from hym were expyled
Slouth ne Venus in hym had no dominion
Auarice and glotony / he betterly expelled
No vice in hym reigned / his felowes he excelled
As cleue as cristall / he bare these vertues thre
Chastite / obidience / and wylfull pouerte

O cruell deth / whiche art the perfite ende
Of this noble clerke / and euery mortall thyng
Agaynst the / no man may hym defende
Thou causest wo / languor / and anguissyng
And who on this / wolde haue remembryng
Howe from erth / to erth he must agayne
He wolde dispise all thynges that be mundayne. Uale.

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oz it fell & resolved was vnto powder. Cap. xxxiii.

1510 Dan-Henri-bradshaw-
449 Hengestus

R Vorty gerno

589 Saxonb totall raignes

1. Hengistub rania -

2. Adla and Ella -

3. Cordyrb. . . westsax. Wud/

4. Hestrynwun/ est. saxon. wotst/

5. Rte. Giffa/ westsax. saxon.

6. B. C. de Markia -

7. R.

8.

9.

R. wydar

R. Wydba

R. ponda

- Lady namob

L. quadrilinga

L. Merril -

L. Merwade

L. Kornburga

L. Kornfritze

L. Ermenberg

Ladi Mildreda

La - Mylgud

La / milburga

L. Ermenilda

L. Wotvige

L. Boonwud

Lady Hilda

L. Sexburga

Lady Henswytha

Lady Modry -

Ladi Elfburga

Ladi / wylf Buge

Lady Rirula

Lady Beata

L. Aldoldread

L. Erkingod

Lad. Emma. swan
Lad. margarita. mura

Chere foloweth the lyfe of the glorio
ous virgyn saynt werburge/ also

Kern. wyl many miracles that god hath

shewed for her/ & fyrst the

prologe of the au-

ctour.

we call this same

s^t warberough.



Anno 634

Epistola beati Pauli apostoli ad
Romane
capitulum primum
versus octavus



BRITISH
MUSEUM

The prologe of the translatour of this lytell werke þ
lyfe of saynt Werburge.

D. H. Bradshaw -

When Phebus had come his cours i sagittari
And Capricorne entered a sygne retrograt
Amppdes Decembre/þ ayre colde & frosty
And pale Lucyna/the erthe dyd illumynat
I rose bp shortly/fro my cubycle preparat
Aboute mydnyght/and cast in myne intent
How I myght spende/the tyme conuenient:

I called vnto mynde/the great vnstedfastnes
Of this wretched worlde/not by cours of nature
How there be brought/some men to busynes
Oppressed with pouerte/langour/and dyspleasure
Some other exalted/to felycite and pleasure
The maker of mankynde/most in maieste
Ruleth all at his wyll/it may non other be.

Beholde dyscretly/and se the fyrmament
Consyder the sonne/and the mone also
With all the planettes/and sterres resplendent
How they kepe theyr cours/bothe to and fro
Euer obedyent/theyr creature vnto
And byrdes besely/syngynge euery day
Praysynge theyr prymate all that they may:

The. iiii. elementes/in lyke condycyon
The fyre/the water/the ayre/and the sonde
Obseruen theyr duty/after theyr creacyon
And burum ben/and euer so be sonde
Thus euery creature/as we vnderstonde

Werburge

a. ii.

Obegeth to his creature/ with humylyte.
Except dyssolute man/ folowynge sensuallite.

If man wyl remembre/ how he was create
To the lyknes and figure/ of god almyghty
And set in paradys/ a place moost delycate
To haue the fruytyon/ of eternall glozy/
If not synne expulled hym to the vale of mysery
But that he wolde enclyne/ his naturall reason
To serue his maker/ truly at due season.

Dyuers people/ haue dyuers condicions
Comynly proued/ it is euery day
Some set to vertu/ and good disposicions
In penaunce/ prayer/ all that they may
Some in contemplacyon/ the sothe to say
Some in abstinence/ to chastyce the body
And make it subget/ to the soule perfectly.

Some other reioyce/ in synne and ydelnes
Some seruauntes to Venus/ both day and nyght
Other to couetyse/ and worldly besynes
Some to deceyue/ by subtyltye in spght
Some vnto marchandise/ & mynyng full ryght
Some ferefull and tymorous/ without audacyte
Some sadde and sobre/ and of great graunte.

Many haue pleasure to speke of rybaudry
Some of fyghtynge/ braulyng/ and actes marcyall
Other to flater/ and paynt the company
Some to syt bytwene the cuppe and the wall
Some to blasfeme/ and dyssemble withall

To backbyte and sclaunder/ by malyce and enuy
Some to extorcyon/ thefte and playne robbery.

Thus after feaple/ and sundry compleccyons
Dyuers men dyuers in lyuynge there be
Dysposed by a contrary dysposycyon
Some vnto vertue/ some vnto vanyte
Many maners of people/ now we may se
Wauerynge in the worlde/ without quyetnes
As a shyp by tempest/ is dzyuen doubtles.

Whan I reuolued/ with due circumstance
The dyuers maners/ and mutabylpte
Of worldy people/ and the great varyaunce
And how this lyfe/ is of no suerte
Now in great langour/ now in prosperpte
yet after our meryte/ we shal be sure
To be rewarded/ at our departure.

Than to vertuous labours/ we shulde apply
And spende not our tyme/ all in ydlenes
For as a byrde is made/ by nature to fly
Ryght so we shulde vse/ some good busynes
To our soule helthe/ with great mekenes
For tyme euyl spende/ in labours bayne
Is harde to be well/ recovered agayne

But now syth I am/ a relyggyous man
For losynge of tyme/ can not me excuse
Therefore I purpose/ to do as I can
All suche ydlenes/ whylom to refuse
With the grace of god/ the tyme for to ble
Werburge.

Some small treatyse/ to wyte breuely
To the comyn bulgares/ theyr mynde to satysfy

To descrybe hye hystories/ I dare not be so bolde
Syth it is a mater/ for clerkes conuenient
As of the. vii. aeges/ and of our parentes olde
Of the. iiii. empyres/ whylom moost excellent
Knowynge my lernynge/ therto insuffycient
As for bawdy balades/ ye shall haue none of me
To excyte lyght hertes/ to pleasure and vanyte.

But now in auoydynge/ suche great folysshenes
I purpose to wyte/ a legende good and true
And translate a lyfe/ into Englyshe doubtles
I meane the spouse/ of our lord Ihesu
Blessed saynt Werburge/ replete with vertue
A noble prynces bozne/ a byrgyne pure and gloriouse
After an holy monyall/ and an abbess gracefull,

In the abbay of Chestre/ she is charyed rychely
Byzores and lady/ of that holy place
The chiefe protectryce/ of the sayd monastery
Longe before the conquest/ by deuyn grace
Protectryce of the Cytee/ she is and euer was
Called specyall primate/ and pryncypall presydent
There rulyng vnder/ our lord omnipotent.

And yf I be worthy/ begynne this lytell werke
I praye all the reders/ mekely of pardon
To correke and amende/ syth I am no clerke
Excuse my ignoraunce/ and take the entencion
My mynde is to shewe/ her lyfe and deuocyon

That euery man and woman/ensample maye take
At this pure byrgyn/lynne to forsake.

And syth that she is/in blysse now glorified
It were no reason/her name be had in seyntence
But to the people/her name be magnified
To her laude and prayse/honour and reuerence
Her parentes and bretherne/þ floures of experyence
Haue ben kepte in close/secrete many a day
Wherfoze I purpose/somwhat of them to say.

Fyrst I entende/to make playne descripcyon
Of her fathers kyngedome the realme of Mercyens
How longe it endured/bnder his tuncyon
Under how many kynges/it had prehemynens
Also of her petygre/the noble excellence
For so many sayntes/of one kynted certayne
Is harde to be founde/in all the wo:ldde agayne.

Vnto this rude werke/myne auctours these shalbe
Fyrst the true legende/and the venerable Bede
Mayster Alfrydus/and Wyllyam Malysburge
Gyarde/Polycronycon/and other mo in deed
Now glorious god/graunt me to procede
Blessed byrgyn Werburge/my holy patronesse
Helpe me to endyte/I praye the swete maystresse.

A descripcyon of the realme of Mercyens/of bondes
and commodytes of the same.

A Devere of our sauoure/by full compulacyon
Foure hūdzd/nyne & fourty frome his natiuite
Werburge. a.iiii.

O. fol. 12. m. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

449 - As venerable Bede/maketh declaracyn
Duke Hengyst came to this lande in great royalte
With Saxons/ Angles/ Jutes/ thre people myghte
Desyred by Wostger/ than kynge of Brytons
Came to defende/ fro greuous oppressions,

689 Also the yeres of our blessed sauyoure
Syxe hundredeth foure scoze and nyne expresse
The Brytons were expelled/ so sayth myne auctoure
From Englande to walles/ with great wretchydnes
In Englande than ruled/ leuen kynges doubtles
whose names we purpose/ to shewe with lycens
But pryncypally/ of the kyngdome of Mercyens.

The fyrst realme of Saxons/ began in Kent
The yere of grace/ foure hundredeth fyue and fyfty
Where duke Engystus/ in honour excellent
With septre and crowne/ fyrst reygned royally
The seconde was Southser/ sayth the hystory
Wher Adla and Ella/ reygned full ryght
Whiche realme endured/ but short tyme in myght.

692 The thyrde was Westsaxons/ famous and myghty
Where fyrst reygned/ kynge Cerdicus
The yere of our lord/ fyue hundredeth one and twenty
Whiche realme by p[ro]cesse/ and power byctoryous
Subdued all other/ to hym full memorous
The pryncypall Cytees/ of his regalyte
Were in olde season/ Wynchester and Salesburge.

The fourth was Essex/ Where duke Erchenwyn
Fyrst reygned kynge/ hauynge domynacyon

By the kynge of Mercelande/brought ofte to ryne
The chiefe Cytee was Colchester/of his domynion
Also of east Englande/was the fyfth kyngdome
Where Ulfa crowned/had fyrst the sufferaynte
Of Northfolke and Southfolke/known in certayne:

The syrthe was the kyngdome of Werlunde
Where Cryda was crowned/fyrst by auctoryte
Hauynge nyne shyres/obedyent to his hande
As after shall appere/more euydent to be
The seuenth was Northüberlande/under Ida & Alle
Whylom dyuyded/in sondry kyngdomes twayne
The chiefe Cytee was porke/wher þe kynge dyd reygne

The realme of Mercens/by olde antyquyte:
As playnly declareth/Polycronycon. 300
Thre hundred yeres/endured in auctoryte.
Under eyghtene kynges/worthy domynion
Greatest of gouernaunce of all this regyon
Where Uulfer reigned/a kynge byctoryous
Father to saynt Werburge/byrgyn moost glorious

The boundes and loushyppes/of the sayd Mercens
As shewen dyuers bookes by storyall
Were large and myghty/and of great prehemynens
Where the sayd kynge reigned by power imperyall
This realme to dyscrybe/begyn we shall
At the Cytee of Chester/and the water of Dee
Bytwene Englande and wales/of the west partye

And so transcendinge/by towarde Shrewsbury
By the water of Sabryne/into Bystowe

The Est see mesureth/the Est parte truely
The water of Thamys/the south parte doth shewe
Flowynge vnto London/who so dothe it knowe
The water of Humbre was on the north syde
With the water of Mersee/theyr landes to drypde.

Of the foresayd ryuer/and water of Mersee
The kynge of Mercens/taketh his name
As moost sure drypde/to be had in memoire
Mesuryng and metyng/the bondes with great fame
Of Mersee and Northumberland/kynge of the same
Bitwene cheffyr/ & lathyr/theyr kyngdomes certayne
As auntyent Cronycles describen it full playne.

The sayd myghty kyngdome/of Mercens dyd holde
Many noble Cytees/with towne and burghes royall
Whiche benda optayned/enlarged many folde
As Chester/ Stafford/ Litchefelde/ Couette memoire
Lyncolne and Huntingdon/ Northampton with all
Leicester and Derby/ Cambrydge and Oxford
Worcester and Bristol/with other mo & Hereford.

Many royall ryuers/were conteyned in the same
With sundry kyndes of fyshes/swete and delycious
It were teduous to shewe/of them the dryuers name
In ryuers and in pooles/swymmyng full plentuous
Also forrestes/parkes/chases large and beauteous
And all beestes of venery/pleasaunt for a kyng
To cours at lyberte/befounde there pasturyng.

Also this royall realme/heldeth as we fynde
Habundaunce of fruytes/pleasant and profytable

Great plente of cornes/and graynes of euery kynde
With hylles/valleys/pastures/comly and delectable
The soyle and glebe/is set plentuous and comendable
In all pleasaunt propertes/no part of all this lande
May be compared/to this foresayd Mercelande.

The people of Mercyens/the trouthe yf we dare saye
Lordes/barons/knyghtes/with all the comunete
In multure and in batayle/ouer the pryce haite they
The kynges grace to serue/moost valyaunt in artylere
In all actes Marcyall/ouer haupnge the bycrope
With herte/mynde and harneys/redy day and nyght
They? enemyes to subdue/by power mayne & myght.

*Stephen
Stafford
was with
Donbryer*

If they be well ordred/bnder a sure capytayne
And set to suche busynesse/they? honour to auance
The triumph they optayne/knowen it is certayne
In Englade and Scotlande/& in the realme of Fraunce
Fewe of them haue coultred/by manhode and valeaunce
Great nombze of enemyes/with knyghthode & polycy
We meane them moost specyall/in the weest party.

Many other commodytes/pleasures and proprietes
This sayd realme/holdeth of olde antyquyte
In royalties and lordshyppes/landes and lybertes
Honourably dylated/in worship and polycy
Flouryng in wysedome/honours/and chyualtre
Verryfyed by kyng Offa/moost myghty and excellent
Proued in his actes/by playne experyment

This Offa subdued/in hystory as is founde
The kyng of Westsaxons/Nothumberlandes & Kent

Droue Brytons to wales/out of this lande
And made a depe dytche/fo: a sure dyupdent
Bwtwene Englande and Wales/ & to this day presente
Is called dytche Offa/so that no Bryton
On payne of punysshement / shulde entre this regyon.

Kynge Offa translated/as sayth Polycronycon
By myghty power/the see of Canterbury
Unto Lychefeld chyrche/with famous oblacyon
Foz euer to contynu/confyrmied by auctoryte
Also he founded/saynt Albans monasterye
Fyrst of deuocyon to Rome gaue Peter pens
Thus royall somtyme/was the realme of Mercens:

A descrepcyon of the Geanalogye of saynt Werburge
and how she descended of foure kynges of this lande / &
of the royall blode of fraunce.

Regnum Hert. ex pte p̄tis.

A His noble prynces/the doughter of Syon
The floure of vertu/and byrgyn glourous
Blessed saynt Werburge/full of deuocyon
Descended by auncetty/and tytle famous
Of foure myghty kynges/noble and bycto:rous
Keynyng in this lande/by true successyon
As her lyfe by storyall/maketh declaracyon.

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The pere of our lo:de/frome the natypte
fyue hundredeth. xiiii. and also. iiii. score
Whan Austyn was sende/frome saynt Gregorpe
To conuert this regyon/into our sauyoure
The noble kyng Crada. than regned with honoure

Upon the mercyens/ whiche kynge was father
Unto kynge Wpba. and Quadziburge his syter.

This Wpba gate Wenda kynge of mercyens
Whiche Wenda subdued/ true kynges of this regyon
Reygnyng thyrty yere/ in worshyp and reuerens
Was grauntfather to Werburge/ by lynyall successyon
By his quene kynelwitth/ had a noble generacyon
Fyue haleant prynces/ Wenda and kynge Wulfer/
Kynge Ethelred/ saint Marceyl/ saint marwalde i fere.

And two holy doughters/ blessed and vertuous
Saynt Keneburge/ and saynt Keneswyde the byrgyn
Whiche ladyes were buryed/ full memorous
At peturborowe abbay/ and now there lye in shryne
The sayd kynge Ethelred/ by sufferaunce deupne
Had a prynce Cochede/ whiche after reigned kynge
That traslated Werburge/ the .x. yere of her buryenge.

Saynt Merwalde specyfyed/ bucle to saint Werburge
By his quene saint Ermeberge a prynces doughter of kent
Gate. iiii. holy byrgyns/ saint myldred & saint mylburge
Saynt Mylgde the thyrde/ of vertue equppolent
With a sone Hereum/ whiche frome the holy sacramēt
Of baptym was taken/ by myracle expresse
To the blys of heuen/ to reygne there endeleste.

The seconde sone of Wenda/ we meane kynge Wulfere
A noble halpant prynce/ by lynyall dycent
Reygnyng upon the Mercyens with royalte & power
Marped saynt Ermenylde/ a kynges doughter of kent
Where throughe the grace of god omnypotent

They had fayre yssue/saynt Werburge/saynt Kenebe
Saynt wulfade/saynt Ruffyn/in flozr as we rede.

Regnum Northumbrozum
ex parte matris.

The secōde realme of whō saynt Werburge dyd descēde
Was of saynt Edwyn/kyng of Northumberlande
Whiche maryed Quadryburge/his ryghtes to defende
Doughter of Gyda/kyng of Herllande
Bytwene them descended/as we vnderstande
Two comly prynces/the fyrst we call Eadryde
The secōde sone in batayle slayne was named Offryde

Kyng Eadryde gate Hereryc & was kyng of Deirham
This Hereryc by Beoxwyde his quene fayre & free
Had saynt Hylde the abbesse/saynt Bede sayth y same
Lady also foundresse/of the abbay of Whytby
This sayd kyng Hereryc/had another lady
The quene of east Englade/saynt Herys with the hyght
Mother to saynt Serburge/& thre other ladies bryght.

This holy Serburge/full of grace and goodnes
Was maryed to Ercombert/a noble kyng of Kent
Bytwyt them descended/a pycpous ryche
The blessyd Ermenylde/humble and pacient
Whiche for her vertue/was maryed full excellent
To Wulfer kyng of Merciens/with great tolempnyte
And mother was to werburge/as were floure of chastite

Regnum Estanglozum
ex parte matris.

The thyrd noble kyngedome / of her parentage
 Was the realme of east England / whylom i great degre / *work folc*
 Tpylus kyng of the same / byctous and sage
 Gave Redwald his fyrst sone / a chrysten pryncce was he
 This Redwalde had .ii. sones flouryng in chynalte
 The fyrst was Kemiberus / a noble man of fame
 The seconde Cozpwaldus / called by his name.

This foresayd kyng Tpylus / had a seconde sone
 Called Egnicius / accepted as a martyre
 Whiche sayd Egnicius / by lynyall progressyon
 Had .iii. noble prynces / that worthy euer were
 The fyrst was called Ethelwod / y seconde Adelhere
 The thyrd was saynt Anna / a kyng moost vertuous
 In batayle slayne vntygthfully / now a marty? gloryo?

This foresayd kyng Anna / martyred as we rede
 The holy prynces Derelwith / for loue and ampte
 They had a noble yssue / to encrease theyr mede
 The blessed Serburge / saynt Audry of Elpe
 Saynt Ethelburge the thyrd / in Byrges now lyeth she
 Saynt Wuthburge the .iiii. y marty? saynt Jurwyne
 And Aldulph after kyng / whiche reigned a lōge tyme.

The lady saynt Serburge / eldest of them all
 A gracious matrone / enduryng all her lyfe
 Was martyred to Creombert / y kyng of Kent royall
 They brought fourth a progeny / noble to dyscreue
 The blessed Ermenylde / vertuous mayd and wyfe
 Whiche lady was mother / by grace of god almyght
 Unto blessed Anerburge / our confort and our lyght

of folyst manerthys yb. lxxv woman

our comfort and our lyght *to lxxv / 90*
expte. / lxxv / and lxxv

of kyngdom of Kent and France

Regnum Cantie et Francie/et parte maris:

The.iiii. myghti kyngdome/ of whom this royal prices
Saynt Werburge descended/ was the realme of Kent
Where reygned fyrst Hengyltus/ by victorie & prowes
Whiche was the fourth man/ by lygnage euident
Procedynge fro Woden/ a pryncce full prepotent
Of whom our pgenytours/ Angles/ Jutes/ & Saxons
Lynpally succeeded/ kynges of dyuers nacjons.

This foresayd pryncce Wode/ as dyuers auctours sayne
Was the. xv. fro Noe/ by naturall progressyon
Of his eldest sone Sem/ descendencyng playne
In saxons tongue Geaf/ after rite and custome
Not of the lygne of Japhet/ by theyr oppnyon
Retourne we to Hengylt/ and to his successoures
And speke of theyr royalte/ to please the audytoures.

Ermentricus kyng of kent/ reygned with great power
The yere of our sauoure/ fyue hundredth fyue & thyrte
Unto whome Engyltus was great graundfather
This sayd kyng Ermentric/ had yssue fayre and fre
A doughter called Ricula/ which married was to fledde
Of Estler and Hydyller/ gouernoure and kyng
Of whom a myghty kynted/ by proces was comynge.

This Ermentric gate Ethelbert full vertuous
Whiche kyng reygned in kent/ the yere of our sauoure
Fyue hundredth fyue & fyfty/ & baptised was gracious
By blessed byshop Austyn/ of Englade called doctour
= He was fyrst crysten kyng/ & pryncypall protectour
Of the saynt withyn this lande/ and founder was also

on table
for you
to read.

Of dyuers holy places and monasteryes both to w.

This sayd kyng Ethelbryc / for the great habundaunce
Of ryches and honout / was maried solemply
To the prynces Berta / the kynges doughter of fraunce
And of them proceded a vertuous progeny
Eadburg & Ethelburg saintes / whiche Ethelburg truly
By Edwyne kyng of North / had .iiii. prynces honorable
And .iii. holy doughters / gracious and commendable.

Also kyng Ethelbryc had to his successoure
Kyng Eadbalde / in Kent reygnyng a longe space
He maried lady Emma / of fraunce the chosen floure
And by her had yssue / saynt Enfryde full of grace
Also pryncce Ermentred his seconde sone / whiche wace
Maried to quene Osaya / of them dyd procede
Two holy martyrs / Ethelbryc and Etheldrede.

This pryncce Ermentred / had .iiii. ladyes bryght
Lyke the .iiii. floodes of Paradyse / shynnyng in vertu
The eldest of the systers / saynt Ermenberge hyght
The seconde saynt Ermenburge / the spouses of Jhesu
The thyrde saynt Adeldryde / all byces dyd subdu
The .iiii. saynt Erme gyde / sayth theyr lyues hystoryall
Thre of them holy by gyfts / the fourth matrone we call

This foresayd Eadbalde / a souerayne myghty kyng
By Emma of fraunce / had to his enherytoure
The noble kyng Ecumbert / full gracious in luyng
Whiche maried Serburge / with worship & honoure
The kynges doughter of celt England specyfyed afore
This pryncce loued vertu / prayet and deuotyoun
Werburge b.i.

old *Book of* *Thomas of* *11*
Commaundyng all his realme / to kepe þ fast of Anton

Ercombert. xxx. yere / regnyng in his regaly
Had a noble progeny / in grace and all goodnes
His pryncce hyght Egbert / his seconde sone Lothary
Whiche pryncce reygned but ten yere / kyng expresse
Lothary succeeded hym / raynyng. xii. yeres doubtlesse
Also he had two doughters / saynt Ermenylde þ quene
The other hyght saynt Erkengode / a moynes serene.

This lady Ermenylde / was maryed royally
To the aforesayd Wulfet / kyng of Mercens
But wene them descended / full graciously
A noble Margaryte / of hye magnyfycens
A roose of Paradyse / full of prehempnens =
Moost blessed Werburge / the gemme of holynes
Our synguler luffrage / and lerre of our clerenes.

A descrypcyon of the actes & chpyualry of kyng Penda
da graundfather to saynt Werburge / & of his noble and
vertuous yssue and progenye, Ca. liii.

620
A pagan
king
and by name
The yere of grace. vi. C. syre and twenty
The foresayd pryncce Penda / began for to reygne
The tenth man fro Woden / a pryncce in Saron
Sone and heyre to Wybbe / sayth myne auctour playne
Fyfty yeres of aege / that tyme he was certayne
Whan he was fyrst crowned kyng of Mercens
Thyrti yeres he reygned / with great reuerens.

Fyue kynges in batayle / this Penda dyd subdue
Saintes Edwyn & Oswald / kynges of Northuberlāde

With Sygebert/ Egnycus/ and Anna full of vertu
Thre noble kynges/ regnyng in east Englande
With helpe of Bytones/ by Bede we vnderstande
Dylated his regyon/ with worshyp and honoures
Moche more than dyd/ any of his pzedecessoures.

He maried Kenel with/ a lady fayre and bryght
And by her had yssue/ a goodly generacyon
Deada his pryncce/ Uulfer a noble knyght =
Saynt Ethelred/ and Merwalde full of deuocyon
Also saynt Merfellpn/ of holy conuersacyon
Saynt Keneburge/ also saynt Kenelwyde
Auntes to saynt Werburge/ bpon the fathers syde. +

Thre of his chyldren/ as we vnderstande
Byrthe Deada/ Keneburge/ and Ethelrede
He maried with Oswey/ kyng of Northumberlande
To. iiii. of his yssue/ for loue and for mede
Uulfer and Merwalde/ the story sayth in dede
Were maried vnto/ the copall blode of Kent
To Ermenylde and Domueue/ two ladyes excellent.

Soone after by grace/ the myddyll parte of Mercyens
Under pryncce Deada/ were baptysed euery chone
Whiche Deada maried/ Elfed with reucrens
Doughter vnto Oswey/ kyng of the North regyon
Deada therto graunted/ without contradyccyon
Under a fre lycence/ his people were at lyberte
Within all his regyon/ baptysed for to be.

Also pryncce Alfryde/ sone to kyng Oswey
Maried saynt Keneburge/ syster to pryncce Deada
Werburge .b.ii.

rollda
Berry-
adda-
Dinna/
pungly

Whiche sayd Deada/brought from the north party
Foure holy preestes/ Ced/ Becy/ and Adda
To preche to his people/ the fourth was Duyna
Whiche. iiii. selden leaseth/ day/ nyght nor tyme
To conuert the people/ vnto chrystes doctryne.

Kynge Penda consented/ as afore is sayd
And permytted doctours/ to preche in euery place
Throughout his realme/ and neuer it denayed
To baptise his subgettes/ by fayth and ghostly grace
He ayded them with socour/ and helpe in that case =
That wolde be conuerted/ for they: spnguler mede
As sayth myne auctour/ the venerable Bede.

But by the temptacon/ of our ghostly enemy
This sayd kynge Penda/ this vyctorious knyght
Of balyaunt men in armure raysed a great company
And to the North parties went/ purposynge to fyght
And cruelly to slee/ by power/ mayne/ and myght
The foresayd kynge Oswey/ as he afore had slayne
Saynt Osualde his brother/ kynge and marty: playne.

Shortly was forgotten/ the fauour of his affynyte
That fully was cōtracte/ byt wene these kynges twayne
Joynded at the maryages/ of they: chyldren thre
Euer to haue endured/ in loue by reason playne
yet Oswey offered Penda/ many ryche gyftes certayne
To auoyde his malpce/ and for to kepe the peas
Whiche Penda refused/ replete with wyckednes.

Bytwene these. ii. kynges/ was a strōge myghty batell
Not ferre frome porke/ ny the flood of Wynwed

In the regyon of Leedes / where by fortune cruell,
Kynge Penda perished / & carefully was leed
And .xxx. dukes with him were slayne and lefte deed
The kynge Oswy offered gladly / with good entent
His yonge daughter Edelred / to god omnyppotent.

He set her for doctryne / to the abbesse saynt Hylde
Lady of Streynshalt / now called Whytby
And gaue .xii. possessyons / a monastery to buyde
Whiche place is from yorke / myies thyrty
He gaue great landes to his sone in lawe Deade
But the thyrde yere after / this sayd prynce was slayne
By treason of his wyfe Edelede / for certayne.

How after deche of Penda & his sone prynce Deada
his seconde sone Wulfer / father to saynt Werburge was
electe to be kynge of all the Mercyens. Ca. v.

After that this Penda / of Mercyens kynge
In batayle by kynge Oswy / cruelly was slayne
And his prynce Deada / after hym thre yeres regnyng
Was put vnto deeth / by his quene in certayne
These people of Mercyens / rebelled sore agayne
The foresayd Oswy / kynge of Northumberlande
And hym refused / as ye shall vnderstande.

All the sayd Mercyens / by a generall counsell
Fortyfied themselfe / with power myght and reason
And crowned prynce Wulfer / as Bede doth vs tell
With honour / worshyp / and great renoune
Whiche prynce to kynge Penda / was the seconde sone
This prynce was preserved / afoze tyme secretly

Werburge,

b. llii.

And saued by his subiectes frome dethe and malady.

This valyaunt pynce and redoubted knyght
Kynge Uulfer thus crowned / with great prosperyte
Upon the Hertypens reigned / by tyle and myght
Whiche realme was dyuyded / whylom in partes thre
Fyrst in the West marches / & in the South parte truely
The thyrde parte was nomynate / mydle Englonde
Ouer them all thre / he reigned as is fonde,

This sayd kynge Uulfer in honour famous
Was deuoutely baptysed / with great solempnyte
By two holy bysshops / the blessed Finanus &
And bysshop Ierumannus / saythe the bystoyre
The kynge made a bove / of hys auctoryte
All temples of ydols / within his regyon
To destroy and chaunge / vnto chrysten relygion.

This Uulfer was polytyke / replete with wysdom
Victoryous in batayle / proued by his chyualry
His enemyes oppzelled / by manhode and reason
Subdued his aduersaries / and had the victory
From his realme expelled / all cruell tyzanny
Conquered in batayle / at Alhdum ryght famous
The kynge of West Saxons / called Kenwalcus.

Also he subdued / vnto his Empyre
The Ilande Uecta / called the yle of wyght &
And after that he had / of it his desyre
He gaue the sayd yle / by tyle full ryght
To the kynge of east Englonde / to enlarge his myght
Under that condycyon / that he baptysed wolde be.

And was his godfather/ of pure charyte

In lyke wyse as this prouynce/ of Mercyens
Whylom was greateſt realme/ within Englande
Many yeres contynuyng/ in prehemynes
Ryght ſo the ſpyrytualte/ well knowne and ſounde
How fyr: byſſhop ſees/ within this layd Mercelande
As at Cheſter/ at Lychfelde/ alſo at Worceſter
The fourth at Lyncolne/ the fyfth at Dorcheſter.

Fozthermoze after deſche/ of Jerumannus
Byſſhop of Lychfelde/ Wulfer the ſayd kyng
Deſyred the archebyſſhop/ and prymate Theodozus
To graunt them a byſſhop/ of holy lyuyng
To gouerne the people/ by ſpyrytuall techyng
To ſhewe to his ſubiectes/ the enſample of vertu
And to preche and teche/ the ſayth of Chryſt Iheſu:

This holy archebyſſop/ and prymate Theodozus
Deſyred ſaynt Cedda/ of the kyng Olwy
Foz his perfeccyon and lyuyng vertuſous
To be remoewed/ to the prouyce of Mercy
Kyng Wulfer was gladde/ of his comyng truſy
Ryght ſo were all/ the people of his realme
Thankyng therfoze/ the kyng of Jeruſalem. *And no longer*

Kyng Wulfer graunted/ to ſaynt Cedda the ſoſellour
Than byſſhop of Lychfelde/ moche poſſellon
To edify chyrches/ vnto chryſtes honoure
But namely he gaue a certayne manſon
In the prouynce of Lyndely/ vnto Lyncolne
Suſſeyent to ſuſſyle/ and well ſoz to content

See margin

fyfth seruauntes/ of good relygious obeyent.

Whys
This noble sayd pryncce/ and redoubted souerayne
flouryng in manheed/ wysedome and polycy
Excelled the peres/ of this realme certayne
In person/ fortitude/ and proued chualry
Lyberall to his seruauntes/ gentyll in company
Gracious to the poore/ and a sure protectour
A founder of chyrches/ and a good benefactour.

CA lytell descripcyon of the noble maryage bytwene
Kynge Cluifer & saynt Ermenylde y kynges doughter
of Kent & of the solēpayte. Done at y same season. Ca. vi.

In meane whyle the kynge/ mynded maryage
By the sufferaunce of our lord god onmyppotent
Issue to encrease/ acordynge to his lygnage
After hym to succede/ kynge and presydent
He mynded moost/ the kynges doughter of Kent.
Prynces Ermenylde/ noynate she was
A beautefull creature/ replete with great grace.

Certaynly her father/ was called Ercomberte
As afore is specyfyed/ the kynge of Kent
Her mother Serburge/ humble in her herte
Of whome Ermenylde/ a lady excellent
Lynpally descended/ by tytle full auncient
Her graundfather Edbalde/ kynge Ethelbyrces sone
The fyrst crysten pryncce/ of Saxons nacyon.

Of foure myghty kyngdomes/ she is descended
From the royall blode of Fraunce/ also of Kent

Upon her fathers party/as afore is notyfied
And on her mothers syde/by hys auncient
Frome the east Englande/famous and excellent
Also of Northumberlande/flouryng in honour
Conuerted and baptysed/into our saupour.

This sayd Ermenylde/this floure of vertue
Was euer dysposed/from her natyuite
Unto the dyscypline/of our lord Ihesu
Enspyrred with his grace/and benygnte
Refused this worlde/ryches and banyte
He bled the maners/of sadde dysposycyon
Passyng fragyll youth/and naturall reason.

Suche synguler confort/of vertuous doctryne
In her so dyd water/a pure perfyte plante
Whiche dayly encreased/by sufferaunce deuyne
Merueylously growyng/in her frellhe and barnaunt
With dyuers proprietes/of grace exuberant
As sobrynes/dyscrecyon/and mekenesse byrgynall
Obedyence/graunte/and wysedome naturall.

Euery tree or plante/is proued euident
Whether good or euill/by experyence full sure
By the budde and fruyte/and pleasaunt descent
As swete tree byngeth forth/by cours of nature
Swete fruyte and delycious/in tast and herdure
Ryght so Ercombert/by his quene moost mylde
Brought graciously forth/the swete Ermenylde.

She folowed her father/in worshyp and honoure
At her mother Werburge/she toke imytacyon
Werburge.

To lyue in clemmes/ presentynge in behaupous
Her father in power/ her mother in relygion
Humble in herte/ haupnge compassyon
Pyteous and lyberall/ where was necessyte.
Joyfull to obserue/ the dedes of chary te.

Forthet of her lyfe/ to make declaracyon
As the true legende playnly dothe expresse
Consyder the hystory/ with good inspeccyon
Of blessed Serburge/ that noble pryncesse
The sayd conuersacyon/ and ghoistly wetenesse
That is perceyued/ in her holy mother
The same perfeccyon/ was in the other.

Neuerthelesse Ermenylde/ escape ne myght
Worldely honours/ and secular dygnyte
As requyred so noble a state of ryght
Ryches/ possessyon/ namely her beaute
But vnto maryage/ compelled was she
Of her parentes/ contrary to her entent
To whome she was founde/ euer obedyent.

This noble lady/ by deuyne prouydens
Elected to her/ a spouse commendable
A valyaunt pryncce/ the kynges sone of Mercyens
Called kyng Wulfer/ famous and honorable
Reygnyng in Mercelaunde/ with toy incomparable
Excellynge many other/ prynces of this regyon
In ryches/ retynu/ fortune/ honour/ and wysdome

At this maryage/ was moche solempnyte
Her father Ercombete/ and her frendes all

The pynces her vncles/ Egbyrt and Lothary
The kyng of east Englande/ Aldulph in speccall
Dukes/erles/barons/ and knyghtes in generall
Whiche sayd company/ were redy that same day
To worshyp the matrymony/ in theyr beest aray.

This royall maryage/ was solempnyfied
With synguler pleasures/ ryches and royalte
Theyr frendes cosyns/ redy on euery syde
To do theyr deuoyze/ and shewe humanyte
Nothyng wantynge/ euery thyng was plente
Of delycate metes/ and myghty wyne stronge
With mynstrels/ melody/ and myrthes amonge.

Whan this fayre pynce/ resplendent in vertue
Came vnto Mercelande/ in the order of matrymony
Than grace with good gouernaunce/ dyd hyr subdue
Vertue was maystres/ chiefe ruler and lady
The faythe of holy chyrche/ dyd growe and multiply
Relygion encreased/ honour and prosperyte
In euery place pacyence/ true loue and charyte.

At the solempne spousage/ of this lady bryght
Kyng Alister promysed/ on his fydelyte
Errours to correcke/ by his wysdome and myght
Clerely to expell/ all sectes of ydolatre
Frome his realme/ and fulfill by his auctoryte
The promyle truly made/ at the founte of baptyme
The chyrche to conserue/ and saue it from ruyne.

The myghty realme of Mercens/ also of Kent
That season were brought/ bothe vnto bryte
Werburge.

And as one kyngedome/ruled full excellent
They? subiectes and seruantes/in tranquyllyte
Kyng Uulfer by his quene/had a noble progenye
Uulfade and Ruffyn/with prync Kentede
And Werburge/of whome we purpose to procede.

CA breue declaracyon of the holy lyfe and conuersacy-
on of saynt Werburge/bsed in her tender youthe / aboue
the compyn courts of nature. Ca. vii.

THis blessed lady / and to all prynces
Descendynge of noble / and hye parentage
Was doughter to Uulfer / the legende dothe rehers
Kyng of Merceland / and of famous kynage
Her mother Ermenylde / ioynd to hym in marpage
They dwelled somtyme / a lytell frome Stone
At a place in Stafforde shyre / amydde his regyon.

They had bytwene them / other chyldren thre
Uulfade and Ruffyn / martyrs full glorious
Synt Kentede his prync / of greate auctoryte
Cumplate at Rome / a confessor gracious
The lyues of these thre / we wyll not now dyscus
But speke of the ghostly / and meke conuersacyon
Of blessed Werburge / now at this season.

For as declareth / the true Passyonary
A boke wherin / her holy lyfe wyrtten is
Whiche boke remayneth / in Chester monastery
I purpose by helpe / of Jhesu kyng of blys
In any wyse to reherse / any sentence amys

But folowe the legende/and true byftory
After an humble ftyle/and from it lytell vary.

This blessed Werburge/from her natpuyte
Folowynge the counfeyll/of her noble parentes
Dyfpofed her felfe/euer to humptyte
Obedyent to them/with all reuerens
Loth to dyfpleafe/o: make any offens
O: dyfquyet any reasonable creature
Thus was her maner/in yowthe be ye fure.

Sadde and demure/of her countenaunce
Stable in gecture/proued in euery place
Sobze of her wordes/all vertu to auauunce
Humble/meke/and mylde/replete with grace
Many vertuous maners/in her founde there was
And dyuers gyftes naturall/to her appoyntate
As was conuenient/for fo noble a ftate.

And as fhe encreafed/mooze and moze in age
A newe plant of goodnes/in her dayly dyd fpyng
Great grace and vertue/were fet in her ymage
Wherof her father/had moche merueplynge
Her mother mused/of this ghofly thyng
To beholde fo yonge/and tender a may
From vertu to vertu/fo procede euery day.

No merueyll it is/who fo taketh hede
In naturall thynges/the dyuers operacyon
Dothe not a rovall rofe/from a bzere procede
Pallynge the ftocke/with pleafant dylectacyon
The fweete ruet paffeth/by due probacyon

Werburge

c. lii.

His heed and fountayne/ryght so dothe she
Transcende her parentes/with great benygnyte.

And tho her bzetherne/delyted for to here
For they? soule helche/ghostly exortacyon
yet she them passed/manysolde moze clere
In loue of our lord/and meke conuersacyon
And lyke as Phebus/in his heuenly regyon
Passed other stretes/chynynge moost pure
So dothe this byzgyn/aboue the cours of nature.

Lordes/dukes/barons/within the kynges hall
Merueyled on her maners/and constaunte sobzynes
The plente of wysedome/and dyscrecyon withall
In so tender age/they neuer knewe expresse
Her mynde so perfyte/auopdyng all pynes
But they knewe well/it pretended by all reasone
Synguler grace and goodnes/to her comynge soone.

Affzmynge on this wyfe/yshe wolde contynu
With suche vertuouse maner/in peres of hye dyscrecyon
That she sholde do honour/by the grace of Ihesu
Unto all her kynrede/and synguler consolacyon
An ensample of vertu/and humylyacyon
They? conforzte/they? tresure/and sterre full bryght
And chese lumpynt/ychynynge day and nyght.

Fyrst in the mo:nyng/to chy?che she wolde go
To lowynge her mother/the quene every day
With her boke and bedes/and departe not them fro
Here all deupne serupce/and her deuocyon say
And to our blessed saupour/meke on knees pray

Dayly hym despyng/fo: his endeles grace and pyte
To kepe her frome synne/and p:serue her in chastyte.

Where youthe is dysposed/of naturall mocyon
To dysportes and pleasures/full of banyte .
This mayde was euer of sadde dysposycyon
Constaunt and dyscrete styll and womanle .
Gladde in her soule/to here speke of chastyte
Clenne and sobrenes/and toyfull fo: to here
Ghostly exortacyons/to her herte moost dere.

How this yonge byrgyn saynt Werburge was despy-
red of dukes & erles in maryage/and of the answere she
gaue to the/ in auoydynge worldy pleasures. Ca. lviij.

As tender youthe passed/this blessed maydyn
Dayly encreased/moze and moze in vertue
In ghostly science/and vertuous dyscyplyne
Obyeruyng the doctryne/of our lord Ihesu
Had his commaundmentes/in her herte full tru
So that no creature/moze perfyte myght be
In vertuous gyftes (by grace) than she.

She was replete/with gyftes naturall
Her bylage moost pleasaunt/fayze and ampyable
Her goodly eyes/clerer than the crystall
Her countenance comly/swete and commendable
Her herte lyberall/her gesture fauourable
She lytell consyderynge/these gyftes transytoy
Set her felyppe/in chryst perpetually.

She hadde moche worschyp/welthe/and ryches
Werburge c. liii.

Wesures/honoures/reuerence and rovalte
The ryches she dysposed/with great mekenesse
To the pooze people/with great charyte
But her sadnes/constaunce/and humplyte
Vertue/gentylnes/so pacyent and colde
Transcended all these other/a thousande folde.

The vertuous maners/and excellent fame
Of this holy byrgyn/redoubted so ferre
In all this regyon/in praylynge her name
That the nobles of this lande/wolde not dyfferre
But with ryche apparell/and myghty power
Came for to seke her/lyke as to Salomon
Quene Saba appzoched/to here of his wysedome.

So lykewyle some came/to her of her vertue
Some of her sadnesse/and prudent dyscrecyon
Some for her constaunce/so stable and true
Some of her chastyte/and pregaunt reason
Some for her beaute/and famous wysedome
And some that were bozne/of kynges lygnage
Desyred yf they myght/haue her in maryage.

In beaute ampyable/she was equall to Rachell
Comparable to Sara/in fyyme fidelyte
In sadnes and wysedom/lyke to Abygaell
Replete as Delboza/with grace of prophery
Equyualent to Ruth/she was in humplyte
In pulchrytude Rebecca/lyke Hester in holynesse
Lyke Iudyth in vertue/and proued holynesse.

The pryncce of Westsaxons/a pere of this lande

Wyllynge to haue her by way of maryage
With humble reuerence/as we vnderstande
Sayd to her these wordes/wysely and sage
O souerayne lady/ bozne of hys lynage
O beautefull creature/and imperyall prynces
This is my full mynde/that I now rehers.

From my fathers realme/hyder I am come
Unto our ptesence/ys ye be so content
With worthyp and honour/and moche renoune
In all honest maner/aperynge euydent
My mynde is on you set/with loue feruent
To haue you in maryage/all other to forsake
If it be your pleasure/thus me for to take.

ye shalbe asured/a quene for to be
ye shall haue ryches/worthyp/and honour
Royall ryche appareyll/and eke the sufferaynte
Precyous stones in golde/worthy a kynges tresour
Landes/ rentes/and lybertees/all at your pleasur
Seruauntes euery houre/your byddyng for to do
With ladyes in your chambze/to wayte on you also.

With these kynde wordes/the byrgyn abasthed fore
And with mylde countenaunce/answered hym agayne
The playnes of her mynde/to test for euermore
Sayenge:o noble pryncce/ I thanke you now certayne
For youre gentyll offer/shewed to me so playne
ye be well worthy/for your regalyte
To haue a better maryage/ an hundzeth folde than me.

But now I shewe you/playnly my true mynde

My purpose was neuer/marped for to be
A lorde I haue chosen/redemer of mankynde
Ihesu the seconde persone in trynitye
To be my spouse/to Whome my byrgynye
I haue depely bowed/endurynge all my lyfe
His seruauit to be/true spouses and wyfe.

Therfore noble pryncce/hertfully I you pray
Tempte me no forther/after suche condycyon
Whiche am so stedfast/and wyll be nyght and day
Neuer for to chaunge/no2 make alteracyon
Take ye this answere/for a sure conclusyon
The promyse I haue made/and bowe of chastyte
Endurynge my lyfe/shall neuer broken be.

Dyuers other astatcs/came her for to assaile
Made instaunt requestes/vnto this byrgyn fre
For all theyr busynesse/they myght not preuaile
So constaunt fyrm & stable/in herte & mynde was she
A mountayne or hyll/soner leue ye me
Myght be remooued/agaynst the course of nature
Than she for to graunte/to suche worldy pleasure.

She well consydered/the texte of holy scripture
Who byleueth her chast/for the loue of Ihesu
The temple of god/they be clypped sure
And shalbe rewarded/for that noble vertu
An hundreth folde/by grace/byces to subdu
And heuen for to haue/at theyr departynge
Whiche she remembred wysely/aboue all thyng.

How þ false Werhode desyred kynge Muller to haue

Werburge his doughter in maryage. And how þe kyng
graunted therto. Ca. ix.

As afore is sayd/whan Penda the kyng
By saynt Oswy kyng/at Leedes was slayne
And Uulfer his sone/the fourth yere folowynge
Was baptysed and crowned/By bysshop Fynane
A solempne boue he made/faythfull and certayne
All temples of ydolles/in his realme to destroy
And chaunge them to chyrches/and newe edify.

The same he promysed/as he was true knyght
Whan that he maryed/blessed Ermenylde
Dedyng soze the iustyce/of god almyght
For his fathers demerites/bureconsyded
On hym to fall sodeynly/and so he begyled
Promysynge a mendes/at his conuersion
Unto holy chyche/with humble deuocyon.

Whiche kyng Uulfer/as was the more pyte
By the wycked counseyll/of a fals knyght
Called Werbode/ranne soone in apostasy & Werbod-
For a lytell whyle/wantynge perfyte lyght
The bryghtnes of the day/was touned to nyght
Whan he gaue credence/that creature vnto
Prolongynge the actes/he promysed to do.

Under kyng Uulfer/chefe steward of his hall
Was this false Werbode/ruler of euery porte
Whome the lady Venus/brought vnto thral
Perfed and wounded/so greuously his harte
Enflammed with loue/and with het fyre darre

Plonget with sorowe/ syghynge day and nyght
The beaute of Werburge, moeued so his syght,

The blynde goddes Cuppyde/ bered so soze his mynde
With interpoꝝ loue/ and sensuall desyre
Of worldely affeccyon/ that reste coude he none fynde
His spyꝝte was troubled/ he brenned as dothe the fyꝝe
Upon this holy byꝝgyn/ his loue was so entyre
To haue her in maryage/ was all his intent
That euery houre was a moneth/ after his iudgement.

Prouyded in his mynde/ how that he well myght
Enforce hym wysely/ with boldynesse and polycye
To shewe his full entent/ in maner good and ryght
No dyspleasure taken/ bpon his lordes partye
By this ymagynacyon/ he fell bpon his knee
Afoze his lorde and kynge/ desyꝝynge a petycyon
His mynde to declare/ with fully grace of pardon.

Excellent pꝝynce he sayd/ and moost worthy kynge
That repgues now within the realme of Englande
Flouryng in chꝝualꝝ/ in honour encreasynge
Traꝝcendynge other pꝝynces/ of this forsayd lande
My full intencion/ now ye shall vnderstande
Requyꝝynge your grace/ in this poore cyꝝcumstaunce
At my petycyon/ to take no greuaunce.

My synguler good lorde/ hertfully I you pray
With instaunte request/ and humble supplicacyon
Graunte me your doughter Werburge/ as ye maye
To haue her in maryage/ auoydynge all treason
If your grace deny/ this pꝝesent petycyon

De the me behoues / full soone and hastely
My loue is so feruent / there is no remedy.

Stande by Werbode / kynge Uulfer than sayd 9
Our chyfe champpon / in all our chyuallry
your humble desyre / shall not be denyd
Of Werburge our doughter / no w consent wyll we
If ye may optayne / her wyll and mynde truele
Her mothers also / vnder that condycyon
We graunt her to you / at your meke suggestyon.

Of this gracyous answere / a gladde man he was
Reioysynge in his herte / began to conspyre
Castynge in his mynde / craftely by compass
How he myght optayne / to the hye empyre
And regne after Uulfer / at his owne desyre
But tho man pzepose / god dysposed all
Who clymbeth to hye / often hath a fall

Ambition

How the quene saynt Ermenylde wolde not cōsente
thereto / how her bretherne saynt Wulfade and Ruffyn
were agaynst the sayd maryage.

Ca. x.

Of this busynesse / whan the quene had knowlege
Namely of Werbode / the greuous pzeumpcyon
How he had moeued / throught his wycked rage
The kynge in suche causes / by synghuler petycyon
And how the kynge consented / to his supplicacyon
She was soze greued / at this pzeowde crafty knyght
Called hym in pzeesence / and sayd these wordes ryght.

Thou wycked tyraunt / and unkynde creature

Folowynge thyne appetyte/and sensualyte
Thou cruell pagane/presumpnyng at thy pleasure
Blynded with ygnoraunce/and infydelyte
Who gaue the lycence/and suche auctoryte
Our doughter Werburge/to despye of the kynge
Without our counseyll/thereto consentynge.

Consyder ryght well/thy kynred and pedegre
It is well knowen/thou arte comen of nought
Nothet of duke/erle/lorde/by auncetre
But of bylayne people/ys it be well sought
Agaynst our honour/nom that thou hase wrought
Whiche consequently/shall be to thy payne
For all thy labour/is spende in vayne.

Thou knowes of a certayne/refused she hase
Many a ryche maryage/within this londe
A thousande tymes better/than euer thou wase
Is now orels shalbe/by any maner fonde
Our doughter to the/shall neuer be bonde
Nor suche a captyfe/shall haue no powere
With kynges blode royall/to appoche it nere.

Under my souerayne lorde/and me also
An offycer thou arte/and of great royalte
To be a true seruaunte/nom thou arte our foo
Tryed/proued/founde fals/in eche degre
Thou hase well deserued/to be hanged on a tre
For thy mys dede/thou shall soone repent
Thy hye presumpcyon/proude and dysobedpent.

As for our doughter/and dere derlyng

By the grace of god / and our aduysment
Soone shalbe marped / to the moost myghty kyngs
That euer was bozne / and in this erth lent
We meane our sauyour / lozde omny potent
Wherfore thy wretchydnes / wyll bpon the lyght
Thou tarynted traytour / out of our syght.

With that saynt Werburge / came into pzeience
Afoze her mother / and all the company
Doyng her duty / with all due reuerenc
Folowynge her doctryne / full sappyntly
With lycence optayned / spake euydently
After suche maner / that all the audyence
Reioysed to here / her lusty eloquence

O souerayne lady / and kynges doughter dere
My dere mother / ouer all thyng transytoy
O gracyous prynces / and quene to kyng Wulfers
To your ghostly counseyll / do me euer apply
As I haue promysed / ryght euydently
To the kyng of kynges / and lozde celestyall
I wyll obserue / endurynge this lyfe mortall.

And thou false Werhode / folowynge sensuallte
I meruayle greatly / thy hye presumpcyon
To moeue our father / with suche audacyte
Knowynge my mynde / set on relyggon
yet for thy soule helthe / accepte this lesson
Aske mercy and grace / of my spouse eternall
Lest vengeaunce sodeynly / bpon the do fall.

Wherwith her bzetherne / Wulfade and Ruffyn

Two noble pꝛinces/manfull sadde and wyse
Soꝛe vexed with payne/theyꝛ hertes were within
At this false stewarde/whiche can so deupse
Agayne theyꝛ honour/to do suche pꝛeiudyse
As to attempte theyꝛ father the kyng
In so great a mater/they not consentynge.

They called Werbode/afoze them all
Sayenge thou captyfe/who gaue the lycence
To moeue this cause/so hye and specyall
Touchynge a lady/of suche pꝛehemynence
A kynges daughter/of moche magnyfyence
None comparable to hym/in all this regyon
In honour/royalte/power/and dyscrecyon.

And as our mother sayd/to the byfoze
Loke well thy pꝛogeny/and all thy lynage
A byllayne oꝛels wers/sothly thou was boꝛne
Now our dere syster/wolde haue in maryage
As lemyng for a pꝛince/of hye parentage
Than for suche a carle/by a pꝛouerbe auncient
A lab to wedde a lady/is an inconuenient.

Therfoze we charge the/byon greuous payne
Houe no suche mater/noꝛ speke of it no moze
For yf suche mocyon/come to vs agayne
Of hye pꝛesumpcyon/as is done afoze
Thou shalt repent/the cause and dede full soze
Now we commaunde the/no foꝛther to contrye
But cease of suche busynesse/in payne of thy lyue.

How the false Werbode complayned byon, Clulfade

and fustyn to kynge Iulfare by malpce and enny/ and
was the cause of theyr dethe. Ca. xi.

This wycked Werebode/ the bedyll of Belpall
The minister of mysche/ & sergeant of sathanas
Consyderynge he was/ despyed of them all
And soze rebuked/ for his outragvous trespass
He brenned in enny/ as a man without grace
Cast in his mynde/ how he myght wroken be
Upon her b:etherne/ by some subtylre.

Euer from that tyme/ he lay in wayte
Sekynge occasyons/ on them to complayne
Dayly ymagyned/ with subtyll decepte
Them to subdue/ and cause to be slayne
Attendynge oportunte/ to take them in a trayne
By the false entysement/ of his mayster Belpall
Prompte to all mysche/ as dysciple naturall.

In fauour of his prynce/ by crafte he hym brought
(As now is in custome) with false flattery
Some please theyr mayster/ and that is ryght nought
So dyd this Werebode/ by subtyll polycy
His vengeable mynde/ was hymselfe to magnify
And bitterly to lose/ these prynces twayne
O: destrope hym selfe/ by mysfortune playne.

Lyke as Archythofell/ these counsellour to absalon
Sundry tymes moeued hym/ vnto barbaunce
And with kynge Illuerus/ in fauour was Amon
Counseyllynge hym euer/ vnto great myschaunce
In lyke cause Werbode/ moeued to vengeaunce
Werburge. D. i.

Was chese counseler/to Wulfer the kynge
Whiche brought hym selfe to shame/and euill endynge.

The elder pryncce Wulfade/ in his dyspporte
Used haukynge huntynge/ for a past tyme
But vnto huntynge namely/ was his resorte
Euery day in the mozowe/ longe afore pyne
And as it fortunyd/ bpon a tyme
A myghty harte repyd was/ coured a longe space
Whome Wulfade pursued/ with pleasure and solace.

This harte soze strayned/ ranne for his socour
As all deer done/ of theyr propyete

*A remyn-
der of G. G.*

To a well with water/ after his great labour
Hym to reconforte/ and the moze fresher be
Wherby saynt Cead/ had his oratoye

The wylde harte there lay/ full secrete and still
And suffered this holy man/ to do all his wyll.

This blessed bysshop moeued with pyte

Couered this sayd harte/ with bowes and leues also
Put a small corde/ aboute his necke trile
And after commaunded hym spedly to go
To the wylde woodes/ whens he came fro
His pasture to seke/ for saynt Cead knewe truly
It was a sygne folowynge/ of some great mysery.

(As Bede wytnesseth) this holy confessor
Was bysshop of Lychefeld/ and Couentre
Whiche for the loue of our saupour
In wyldernesse dwelled/ all solytarye
Contented with fruytes/ of the wylde tree

With rootes/herbes/water/fo: his sustentacyon
Endurynge penaunce/with due contemplacyon.

This venerable p:ynce/ensurynge this great harte
Approched to his cell/with great dyligence
Tenderly requyrynge/where and in what parte
This harte escaped/so ferre out of presence
This holy man answered/with all reuerence
Beestes/byrdes/fowles/I kepe none at all
But I knowe the instructour/of thy helthe eternall.

By this brute beest/thou shalt perceyue well
The sacramentes of holy chy:che euerychone
To encrese thy byleue/by our ghostly counsell
And so to be baptyfed/and haue remysyon
By dyuers brute beestes/fo: mannes saluacyon
Our lo:de hath shewed/secretes mystycall
To his electe persones/by grace supernall.

*nda hys hys
predmalyon*

To Noecame confozte/after the great deluge
By a douue/byngynge a braunche of Olyue
To the prophet Hely/a rauen dyd refuge
Brought hym his sustenaunce/and saued his lyue
Unto saynt Eustach/full memo:atyue
Our lo:de appered/in a hartes lykenes
To whome he obeyed/gladly with mekenes.

+

Of whiche examles/p:ynce Wulfade gladde was
Thankynge god and saynt Ceas/that he thyder come
And sayd holy father/fulfylled with grace
If ye can supply/my instaunte petycyon
That the sayd harte/myght retourne hyder soone
Werburge.

D.ii.

Kyng wylfheres doctryne And Baptysme

Whiche is now in wylbernesse/vnto our presence
Than to your doctryne/ I wyl gyue fully credence.

Saynt Cead vnto prayer/ deuoutely went
And the wylde harte/ frome the wood came hastely
With the corde in his necke/ apperynge euident
And in theyr presence/ stode full ryght soberly
Whylone than he sayd/ by leue than stedfastly
Understande ye may/ all thyng possible is
To a faythfull persone/ that perfyte byleuys.

Uulfade confortyd/ and in the fayth probate
Fell downe to his fete/ with humble deuocyon
Despyrnyng baptym/ to be regenerate
Vnto our sauour/ for his soules saluacyon
Saynt Cead blessed/ the well that season
And baptysed this pryncce/ in name of the trynitye
Was preeest and godfather/ for want of companye.

This chrysten pryncce/ taryed with hym all nyght
In fastyng/ prayer/ and medytacyon
And was refresshed/ naturally in syght
With bodyly and ghostly sustentacyon
The next day receyued/ the holy comunyon
With lycence departed/ to his father agayne
The harte to the forest/ recourfed certayne.

The thyrde day after/ his brother Ruffyn
Followinge the same harte/ by deuyne prouidence
Was well instructed/ in ghostly doctryne
Baptysed by saynt Cead/ & communed with reuerence
And as it fortunyd/ by playne experyence

Of all the proces done/to the elder brother
All thyng dyd happe/ryght so to the other.

Afore this season/chrystes sayth moost gracious
Thugh this lande/was preched in euery place
By byshop fynane/and Jerumannus
Whiche Jeruman of east Englande/first byshop was
And with saynt Ermenylde/came hyder by grace
yet fully conuerted/was not Mersee regyon
Clene frome ydolatry/vnto this season.

B. reada
B. fynan
B. Jeruman

These forsayd prynces/conuerted newly
By blessed Cead/to chrysten relygion
Dayly to hym resorted/for counseyll ghostly
To encrease in vertue/and holy perfeccyon
With pence pretended/they wolde togyder come
Vnto his oratory/from the kynges hall
Vnder colour of Huntynge/as they dyd it call.

And as it is wyrtten/in holy scripture
Whoso is a sure frende/loueth stedfastly
And who is enemy/putteth dyligent cure
Whylche to accomplishe/moost studyously
The falle werebode suspectynge/euydently
The newe conuersyon/of these prynces wayne
Prepared/hym craftely/to take them in a trayne.

Wanbod

He watched on them/secretely every day
To knowe they resorte/and vnto what place
Lyke as a hounde folowynge/these prynces to bytrap
Or a dogge bothe a dere/by sent of the chas
Whan he had perceyued/how all thyng was

Be compased in mynde by false inuencion
To complayne to the kynge/fo: they: destructyon.

My synguler good lord/and moost p:yncypall
Sayd this werehode/the fals traytour
Pleaseth your goodnes/and grace specyall
To my supplicacyon/to be a protectour
ye haue two p:ynces/myghty in honour
Whiche are my lordes/and euer shalbe
If they wolde be true/to your soueraynte

They haue refused/the moze pyte is
your auncyent lawes/and sectes euerychone
And with your lpcence/haue done yet moze amys
fo: now they be subiecte/to a newe relygion
Utterly refusynge/your decrees and olde custome
Folowynge the counseyll/and mynde of a senyoz
Called byshop Cead/they: specyall auctoz.

your strayte commaundmentes/they dayly despyce
And purpose I tell you/in secretenes
Unto your persone/to do moche p:esudyce
To murther o: popson you/shortly doubtles
And so fo: to reygne/and gouerne your ryches
Byt wene them twayne/to dyuyde your lande
By fals conspyzacy/as ye shall vnderstande:

With these false tales/and many other mo
The kynge was moued/to malyce and yre
By his compleccyon/as he was wont to do
More cruell than a beest/as feruent as the fyre
Depely affyrmyng/that dethe shulde be they: hyre

If he myght take them/ in any place
They shulde be slayne/ and suffer withouten grace.

In the morowe after/ whan Phebus began to clere
The kynge toke Werbode/ with hym secretly
To try out the truthe/ and how it wolde appere
Wheder his prynces/ were gone to the oratory
If it were so/ he sende hym pryuely
To gyue them knowlege/ of his entent
For to remoene/ from his hasty Iudgment.

The father had pyte/ vpon his chyldren naturall
Wolde not haue slayne them: the sothe to say
Wherfore he sende/ the seruaunt of Belyall
To conuay them fro thens/ some other way
The kynge knewe hym selfe/ not able that day
To refrayne his yre/ and cruell hastynesse
Gyuen to hym of nature/ in suche great dystresse.

This wycked Werbode/ came to the oratory
And sawe these prynces/ in great deuocyon
Counceyled his message/ by malyce and enuy
Retournd to the kynge/ hastily and soone
Newly complaynyng/ by fals ymagynacyon
A hundreth folde worse/ than at the fyrst tyme
With new addycyons/ to byngne them to ruyne.

And whan the kynge/ approached nygh the cell
Herynge the complayntes/ of this fals knyght
The chyldren perceyued/ a voyce ryght well
Cessed of theyr prayers/ and came forth full ryght
On whome whan Wulfere/ had ones a syght

He was soze moeued/as hote as the fyre
Agaynst heshylden that loued hym entyre.

But by the malyce/and wycked temptacon
Of the deuyl/mannes olde mortall enemy
And what by the false crafty suggestyon
Of wycked Werebode/fulfylled with enuy
And by his owne hastynesse/and cruell fury
These prynces were slayne/Wulfade and Ruffyn
Now glorious martyrs/repynge in heuyn.

After whan kynge Wulfer/approched his castell
And burieth was entred/into his hall
Incontynently a spyryte/the false fende of hell
Entred fals Werebode/after the people all
In wardly hym bered/with peynes contynuall
That his armes and handes/he dyd horribly tete
Whiche sodayne vengeaunce/all the courte dyd fete.

He rored and pelled/lyke a wylde bull
Shewed all the myschefe/malycie and enuy
Done agaynst the martyrs/with a mynde yrefull
So soze constrayned/with peynes greuouly
The deuyl ceased not/his dolours to multiply
Tyll his fylthy soule/compelled soze was
For to expyre/for his hydeous trespass.

How kynge Wulfer was conuerted & toke great re-
pentaunce for his offences. And by the counseyll of saynt
Ceade was a deuoute man / and a good benefactour to
holy chyrche/and a founder of dyuers holy places rely-
gious.

An Ulfer consyderynge with due dyscrecyon
His cruell hastynes/and furpous mynde
How ferre he had abused his reason
Agaynst his chyldren/by nature and kynde
Hefore repented/in hystory as we fynde
His greuous trespas/and homycyde vnnaturall
In conseyence greued/for his synnes mortall.

Namely lamentynge/in foule his apostasy
After his baptyme/and ghostly conuersion
And for the departure/of his prynces truly
Contrary to ryght/kynde and all reason
The losse of his fame/through this regyon
A dethe to his quene/and his louers all
Greuous to his kynnesmen/and frendes naturall.

All these consydered/with due cyrcumstaunce
He wayled and weped/sobbynge full sore
Plonged in sorowe/heuynes/and greuaunce
Lamentynge his offence/a thousande tymes therfore
His intollerable peyne/encreased more and more
Wofully he went/to his bed by and by
Supposynge some dethe/withouten any remedy.

Some of his louers/beynge there present
Gaue hym theyr counseyll/to hunte in the forest
Some to dysportes/and pleasures euident
Some vnto melody/all thoughtes to degest
But Ermenylde his quene/whiche loued hym best
Counseyled hym truly/to take contrycyon
And mendes make/by due satisfaccyon.

Of this ghostly counseyll / the kynge was very glad
And in the morowe after / prepared besyde
With mekenesse to seke / blessed saynt Cead
So whan the kynge came / to his oratory
The byshop was at masse / and ryght consequently
fro heuen descended / so gloriouse a lyght
That of the mystery / Wulfer had no syght.

Whan masse was ended / saynt Cead his vestures caste
Upon the sonne beame / by myracle there hangynge
Supposynge on a forme / and made moche haste
To mete at the doore / mekely the sayd kynge
Whiche laye there prostrate / penaunce despyng
With reuerence hym eleuate / and gaue an exortacyon
The kynge was agreable / for to do satisfaccyon.

The byshop hym enioyned / in parte of penaunce
To destroye all ydolles / and sectes of ydolatry
In all his realme / and the temples of paganes
To translate to the honour / of god almyghty
With preestes and clerkes / to pray and synge deuoutly
Also peas and iustyce / to be kepte contynuall
With the werkes of mercy / to be vsed in specyall.

Forther he enioyned hym / of his charyte
Monasteryes to make / of great perfectyon
Endowed with landes / possessed in lyberte
Therin for to set / men of telyggon
To pray to our lord / for his saluacyon
Whiche Wulfer promysed / to fulfill gladly
As soone as he myght / by possyblyte.

*And thus
God be praised*

Then the foresayd kynge/and the holy confessor
Went to they: prayers/in the oratory
And as the kynge looked vp/to our sayour
The sayd sacrat vestures/he sawe euidently
Hangynge on the sonne beame/full merucylously
His gloues/his gyrdell/the kynge had vpon
Whiche shortly to grounde/falled adowne.

Wherby he perceyued/the great holynesse
Of blessed saynt Ceas and interpo: deuocyon
Desyred his prayer/dayly with mekenesse
To almyghty god/for his remysyon
Frome thens departed/with his benedycyon
Joyfull in his soule/to warde his place
Thankynge god mekely/of his great grace.

As the kynge promysed/to our sayour
Shortly he auoyded/all ydolatry
Brenned they: ydolles/correcked they: errour
Translated they: temples/vnto god almyghty
Founded monasteries/of relygyon many
Of men and women/gaue them possessyons
Landes: rentes: ryches/to encrese deuocyons

Namely he founded/a ryche monastery
For dethe of the prynces/in satysfaccyon
To the honour of god/and saynt Peter truly
Called Peterborowe abbay/in all this regyon
Endowed it with rentes/lybertes/possessyon
A place where many/relygyous persones be
Serupnge day and nyght/our lord with charyte.

*Wifad
Rofm*
Also there was founded/ at Stone a pyoze
In the honour of god/ and the martyrs twayne
Possessed with landes/ rentes and lyberte
Where deuoute chanons/ ben inhabyte certayne
Myracles and sygnes/ haue ben shewed there playne
To the laude and prayse/ of god omnyppotent
= And of these holy martyrs/ patrones there present,

Of the feruent desyre & great deuocyon y^e saynt Wer-
burge hadde to be relygyous/ & of y^e dayly supplycacyōs
she made to the kyng her father for the same. Ca. xiii.

As this myghty prynces/ encreased in age
So dayly encrefed/ her good condycyons
That greatly enioyed/ her honozable lpynage
Consyderynge in her/ suche vertuous dysposycyons
In bygyls/ prayers/ and ghostly medytacyons
Set all her mynde/ power/ myght/ and mayne
To serue our sauour/ day and nyght certayne.

She well consydered/ with due dyscrecyon
Of this present lyfe/ the great wretchydnesse
How dredefull it is/ full of batpacyon
Deceuable/ peryllous/ and of no sykernesse
The tyme vncertayne/ to be knownen doubtlesse
For here is no cytee/ noz sure dwellynge place
All thyng is transytoz/ in short pzoces and space,

Wifad
= Wherfoze this byzgyn/ gladde and benygolent
Folowynge the counseyll/ of blessed Mathewe
C Was on of fyue byzgyns/ euer redy present
Had her lampe replete/ with oyle full of vertue

Redy for to mete her spouse swete Ihesu
With charytable werkes / in her soule contynuall
Therfore she was taken / to his blys eternall.

She well consydered / the wordes of the gospels
Who refuses pleasures / and naturall generacyon
For the loue of Ihesu / rewarded shalbe well —
With a hundreth folde grace / here for they? guerdon
And after this lyfe / haue eterne fruytyon —
Whiche she remembred / and euer fro that day
On her father wolde call / and nikkely to hym say.

C Reuerent myghty pryncce / and lord honorable
Most dere byloued father / my synguler helpe & socour
My trust / trespure / and solace / to me moost amiable
Instauntly I beseeche you / for loue of our sauyoure
And of his mother mary / of byrgens the floure
With all the company / that in heuen be
My humble petycyon / now graunt it vnto me.

Well byloued father / this is my fully mynde
My instaunte desyre / and humble supplicacyon
By the grace of god / maker of all mankynde
And by your lyfence / helpe / and turycyon
I purpose to enter / into holy relygyon
And utterly refuse / all pleasures transitory
To be professed / at the house of Cly.

C O my dere doughter / sayd this noble kyng
My pleasure / solace / and hope of my gladnesse
Most dere byloued / and my synguler swete derlyng
I well consyder / your vertue and sadnesse
Werburge. e. lii.

your instaunt request/and humble gentylnesse
And of your desyre/inwardly I am gladde
But yet your motyon/makes my herte full sadde.

All my ioye and confozte/now resteth in the
Syth thy dere bretherne/from vs ben agone
Thou arte the trusty treasure/to thy mother and me
Our synguler solace/and sure consolacyon
Wherfore I wete derlyng/as for my heyre alone
I wolde the mary/and a quene the make
If thou wyll consent/and my counseyl take.

Consyder and beholde/through all this lande
Take the a maryage/at thyne owne pleasure
C A prynce moost balpaunt moost noble to be founde
And of helpe and ayde/I shall the assure
With ryches/royalte/welche/and tresure
Clothes of golde/and royall ryche apparell
And all thynges necessary/as man can of tell.

Remembze also/how after course of kynde
Age dothe soze greue/thy moder and me also
Therfore naturall loue(I wete chylde)dothe me bynde
To gyue the best counseyl/what thou shall do
To honour and woꝛshyp/how thou may come to
Whiche great renowne/and hye astate certayne
To se the a quene/wyll make vs yonge agayne.

- 1 God ordeyned matrymony/first in Paradyse
Bytwene man & woman/whan he the worlde dyd make
- 2 That mankynde myght encrese/multiply and ryle
Eche persone at pleasure/a spouse for them to take

Now ioyned by holy chyche/all other to forsake
The chyld of the father/to take his dyscyplyne
And after that to teche/his ysse thei doctryne.

Also man and beest/haue dysposycyon naturall
To bryng forth thei lykenesse/by generacyon
But man haupnge reason/and soe wyl with all
As lawe requyeth/hath his procreacyon
Under true matrymony/by his owne eleccyon
Orels to obsetue/and lyue in pure byrgnyte
For the greater meryte/and rewarde of gloze.

And yf all maydens/shulde kepe thei chastyte
As ye now do/how shulde the worlde encrese
Swete louely creature/ryght ioyfull wolde I be
To kysse a chyld of thyne/haupnge thy lykenesse
And se the also coronate/as a myghty pryncesse
Enclyne dere derlyng/thy mynde to myne entent
And all these sayd honours/wyl folowe consequent.

Of the meke answere saynt Werburge gaue to her fa
ther whan she was moeued to maryage. Ca. xiiii.

The holi mayd/whā she knewe her fathers mynde
Her soule was replete/with woo & pensyuenesse
And soze began to wepe/after cours of kynde
The salte teeres dystylled/for payne and heuynesse
By her ruddy chekes shynnyng/full fayre doubtelese
Pyteous to beholde/but whan the foresayd mayde
Ceased of her sorowe/thus to hym she sayde.

Oost beest byloued father/nexte to god almyght
Werburge. e. liii.

your kynde gentyll moeyon/wolde moeue inwardely
The mynde of any creature/to folowe you ryght
O? any stony stomake/to relent and apply
And resolue eche harde herte/to waylynge dolefully
Consyderynge on euery parte/with good dyscrecyon
To accepte o? refuse/this harde eleccyon.

Father I haue ben to you/meke and obedyent
Euer syth I had/peres of dyscrecyon
Gladde to obserue/your hye commaundymment
With loue interpo?/and humble intencion
And so wyll contynue/with lowly submyssyon
In this present lyfe/whyle I do endure
Of my loue and prayer/euer ye shal be sure.

But moost louely father/I pray you hertfully
Take no dyspleasure/pardon what I shall say
My soule/my herte/and mynde/is set stydfastly
To serue my lord god/nyght and also day
Neuer to be maryed/by no maner of way
For sothly I haue bowed/my true byrgynnte
Unto Ihesu/the seconde persone in trynnte.

That is my spouse/and blessed sauour
For whose loue refused/in certaynte haue I
All worldely pleasures/welth/ryches and honoure
With all boorde busynesse/and cures transyto?y
My loue on hym is sette/so sure and feruently
That nothyng shall separate/my hert hym fro
Sekeness no? helthe/pleasure/peyne/ne wo.

Also my full entent/was neuer other wyse

Than to be handmayde/ to my lord Ihesu
And of my soule and body/ to make hym sacrifice
For my ghostly welthe/ all byces to subdue
He is my dere spouse/ solace/ helthe moost true
On hym is all my herte/ and hase ben set alway
And euer shalbe/ vnto my endyng day.

In this wretched worlde/ we can not longe endure
And of this present lyfe/ we are in no suerte
As we haue deserued/ so we shalbe sure
After this pylgrymage/ rewarded for to be
For mercy and grace/ therfore mekely call we
Whyle we haue tyme and space/ for than it is to late
Whan dethe with his darte/ sayth to vs chekemate.

Wherfore dere father/ I shewe you now agayne
All my hole herte/ desyre and entent
Whiche euer hath ben/ and so shalbe certayne
For to be relygyous/ chaste/ and obedyent
Namely at Chy/ for theyr vertue excellent
Father I requyre you/ for chrystes loue and charyte
My meke supplicacyon/ now graunte it vnto me.

The kynge well consydered/ his doughters desyre
Her constaunte true mynde/ and pure deuocyon
Graunted her petcyon/ with synguler loue entyre
Trustyng by her prayer/ and dayly supplicacyon
Vnto heuen blyss/ the rather for to come
Her mother Ermenylde/ was gladde of this tpyng
And lauded full lowly/ our lord and heuen kynge.

Now saynt Werburge was made a mopnes after her

A noone

desyre at the monastery of Ely vnder saynt Audy/lady
and abbesse. Ca. xv.

Whan the kynge remembred/ with due cyrcumspectaunce
The excellent vertue/ sadnes/ and graunte
Of his dere daughter/ and the persyte constaunce
Her humble petycyon/ and pure byrgnyte
He thanked our lord/ with great humylte
Of his infynyte grace/ that so royall a floure
Frome hym descended/ to his prayse and honoure.

He sende messages/ in all goodly hast
With letters myssyue/ through his regyon
Commaundynge his subiectes/ they shulde full fast
By a day assygned/ be redy euerychone
In theyr best maner/ with hym for to gone
To byrge his daughter/ to the hous of Ely
There to be relygyous/ after her desyde.

Whan the day was come/ of theyr appoyntment
The nobles of the realme/ and lordes were redy
To attende on theyr souerayne/ at his commaundment
Kynge Wulfer prepared/ all thyng pleasauntly
And of his court/ had chosen a noble company
In theyr best aray/ royalle and renoune
To offer saynt werburge/ to god and relygyon.

The kynge on his Journey/ rode for the royally
The quene hym folowed/ as is the custome.
Werbuge succeeded them consequently
The peeres and his counseyll/ knewe well theyr rowme
Dukes/ erles/ lordes/ and many a worthy barowne

Knyghtes/squyers/gentyls/of her kynned also
With ladies and gentylwomen / & seruautes both two.

Whan the kynge approched the sayd monastery
Saynt Audy than abbesse/toke her holy couent
And mette the sayd kynge/and all his company
With solempne processyon/and gretynge benyuolent
Praysynge our lord god omnyotent
Whiche of his goodnes/to that congregacyon
Sende them a cyster/of suche perfeccyon.

Wereburge requyred/by the order of charyte
Meekely on her knees/to enter relyggon
Saynt Audy receyued/of her benygnyte
And graunted fre lycence/after her petrycyon
Gladde were also/the hole congregacyon
And sange (Te deum) with moche reuerence
Magnifynge our lord/of his prouydence.

She was receyued/with moche solempnyte
Into the holy order/after her entent
To proue her sadnes/and humylyte
(As is the custome) and so be obedyent
To lyue euer after/humble/chast/and contynent
Than dyd they? Ioye/merueylously increas
Consyderynge her pacyens/and perfyte holynes.

Her royall dyademe/and chynnyng cozonall
Was fyrst refuted/for loue of our sauoure
The pooze bayle accepted/and the symple pall
The royall ryche purpull/refected that same houre
With other clothes of golde/sylkes of great honoure

She toke lowe appareyll / bestures that were blake
All her plesaunt garments / she clerely dyd forsake.

Also she refused / her fathers realme and royalte
All ryches / rentes / pleasures / possessyon
With all worldely honoures / full of banyte
Lowly submyttyng her / vnder subieccyon
Vertu to encrease / myndyng moost relyggon
She refused yet more her owne proper wyll
Put all to her abbesse / her order to fulfyll.

Of the great solemnyte kynge Wulfer made at the
ghostly maryage of saynt Werburge his doughter / to al
his louers / cosyns / and frendes. Ca. xvi.

Bynge Wulfer her father / at this ghostly spousage
Prepared great tryumphes / and solemnyte
Made a royall feest / as custome is of maryage
Sende for his frendes / after good humanyte
Kepte a noble housholde / he wed great lyberalte
Bothe to ryche and poore / that to this feest wolde come
No man was denyed / every man was well come.

Her vncles and aunces / were present there all
Ethelred and Herwalde / and Mercely also
Thre blessed kynges / whome sayntes we do call
Saint kenelwyd / saic keneburg / they? sylters both two
And of her noble lagnage / many other mo
Were redy that season / with reuerence and honour
At this noble tryumphe / to do all they? deuour.
Tho kynges mette them / with they? company

Egypt kyng of kent/brother to the quene
The seconde was Aldulphe kyng of the east party
Brother to saynt Iudith wyfe and maydeserene
With dyuers of theyr progeny/and nobles as I wene
Dukes/erles/barons/and lordes fere and nere
In theyr best aray/were present all in fere.

It were full tedpous/to make descrypcyon
Of the great tryumphe/and solempne royalte
Belongynge to the feest/the honour and prouysyon
By playne declaracyon/vpon euery partye
But the sothe to say/withouten ambyguyte
All herbes and floures/fragraunt sayre and swete
Were strawed in halles/and layd vnder theyr fere.

Clothes of golde and arras/were hanged in the hall
Depaynted with pyctures/and by stories many folde
Well wrought and craftely/with precyous stones all
Glyterynge as Phebus/and the beten golde
Lyke an erthly paradys/pleasaunt to beholde
As for the sayd moynes/was not them amonge
But prayenge in her cell/as done all nouyce yonge.

The story of Adam/there was goodly wrought
And of his wyfe Eue/bytwene them the serpent
How they were deceyued/and to theyr peynes brought
There was Cayn and Abell/offerynge theyr present
The sacryfice of Abell/accepte full euident
Cuball and Tubalcain/were purtrayed in that place
The inuentours of musyke/and craftes by great grace.

Noe and his shyppe/was made there curiously

Sendynge forth a rauen / whiche neuer came agayne
And how the doue returned / with a braunche hastely
A token of conforste and peace / to man certayne
Abraham there was / standynge vpon the mount playne
To offer in sacryfice / Isaac his dere sone
And how the shepe for hym / was offered in oblacyon.

The twelue sones of Jacob / there were in purtrayture
And how into Egypt / yonge Joseph was solde
There was inprysoned / by a false coniectour
After in all Egypt / was ruler (as is tolde)
There was in pycture / Moyses wyse and bolde
Our lord apperynge / in bushe flammynge as fyre
And nothyng therof brent / lefe / tree / nor spyre.

The ten plages of Egypt / were well embost
The chyldren of Israell / passynge the reed see
Kyng Pharoo drowned / with all his proude hoost
And how the two tables / at the mounte of Synaye
Were gyuen to Moyses / and how soone to ydolatry
The people were prone / and punysshed were therfore
How Datan and Abyron / for pryde were lost full poure.

Duke Josue was toynd / after them in pycture
Ledynge the Irehelytes / to the lande of promysyon
And how the sayd lande / was dyuided by mesure
To the people of god / by equall sundry porcyon
The Judges and byshops / were there euerychone
They noble actes / and triumphes Marcyall
Freshly were browdyed / in these clothes royall.

Nexte to hye boorde / appered fayre and bryght

kyng Saul and Dauid/and prudent Salomon
Roboas succedynge/ whiche soone lost his myght
The good kyng Ezechyas/and his generacyon
And so to the Machabees/and dyuers other nacyon
All these sayd stozes/so ryche/ly done and wrought
Belögyng to kyng Aulfer/agayn þ tyme were brought
o yf row not by

But ouer the hye desse/in the pryncypall place
Where the sayd thze kynges/sate crowned all
The best hallynge hanged/as reason was =
Wherin were wrought/the .ix. ordzes angelycall ¶
Dyuded in thze Hierarchyes/not cessynge to call
Sanctus sanctus sanctus blessed be the trynnyte
Dominus deus sabaoth/thze persones in one depte. ¶

Nerte in ordze supynge/sette in goodly purtrayture
Was our blessed lady/floure of fempnyte
With the twelue apostles/echeone in his fygure
And the foure euangelystes/wrought moost curpouly
Also the dyscyples/of chryst in theyr degre
Drechyng and techynge/vnto euery nacyon
The faythtes of holy chryche/for theyr saluacyon.

Martyrs than folowed/ryght manifestly
The holy innocentes/whome Herode had slayne
Blessed saynt Stephan/the prothomartyr truly
Saynt Laurence/saynt Wynçet/sufferynge great payne
With many other mo/than here ben now certayne
Of whiche sayd martyrs/exsample we may take
Pacence to obserue/in herte for chrystes sake.

Confessours approached/ryght conuenient

frellhely embrodred/ in ryche tyllhewe and fyne
Saynt Nicholassaynt Benedycte/ and his couent
Saynt Jerom/ Basylus/ and saynt Augustyne
Gregory the great doctour/ Ambrose & saynt Martyne
All these were sette/ in goodly purtrayture
Them to beholde/ was a heuenly pleasure.

Uyrgyng them folowed/ crowned with the lily
Amonge whome our lady/ chefe p[re]sident was
Some crowned with rooles/ for they great byctory
Saynt Katheryne/ saynt Margarete/ saynt Agathas
Saynt Cecyl/ saynt Agnes/ and saynt Charptas
Saynt Lucye/ saynt Wenefyde/ and saynt Apolyn
All these were b[ro]thered/ the clothes of golde within.

Upon the other syde/ of the hall sette were
Noble auncyent stoyes/ & how the stronge Sampson
Subdued his enemyes/ by his myghty power
Of Hector of Troy/ slayne by fals treason
Of noble Arthur/ kynge of this regyon
With many other mo/ whiche it is to longe
Playnly to expresse/ this tyme you amonge.

The tables were couered/ with clothes of wyaper
Rychely enlarged/ with syluer and with golde
The cupboorde with plate/ shynnyng fayre and clere
Marshallles theyr offyces/ fulfylled manyfolde
Of myghty wyne plenty/ bothe newe and olde
All maner kynde/ of meetes delycate
(Whan grace was sayd) to them was p[re]parate.

To this noble feest/ there was suche ordynaunce

That nothyng wanted/that gotten myght be
On see and on lande/but there was habundaunce
Of all maner pleasures/to be had for monye
The boordes all charged/full of meet plante
And dyuers subtiltes/prepared sothly were
With cordyall spyces/they: ghestes for to chere.

The Joyfull wordes/and swete communycacyon
Spoken at the table/it were harde to tell
Eche man at lyberte/without interrupcyon
Bothe sadnes and my:thes/also pryue counsell
Some adulacon/some the truthe dyd tell
But the great astates/spake of they: regyons
Knyghtes of they: chyualty/of craftes the comons.

Certayne at eche cours/offeryce in the hall
Trumpettes blewe bp/shalmes and claryons
Shewyng the: melody with/toynes musycall
Dyuers other mynstrelles/in crafty proporzons
Made swete conoordauce/and lusty dyuysyons
In heuenly pleasure/suche armony to here
Reioysyng the hertes/of the audyence full clere.

A synguler mynstrell/all other fette passyng
Toyned his instrument/in pleasaunte armony
And lange moost swetely/the company gladyng
Of myghty conquerours/the famous byctory
Wherwith was rauyshed/they: spyces and memo:ry
Specyally he lange/of the great Alexandere
Of his trumphes and honours/enduryng. xii. yere.

Solemply he songe/the state of the Romans
Werburge

Ruled vnder kynges/by polycy and wysedome
Of thep: hys iustyce/and ryghtfull ordynauns
Dayly encreasynge/in worlthpy and renoune
Tyll Tarquyne p: proude kyng/with p: great cofusyon
Oppressed dame Lucrece/the wyfe of Colatpne
Kynges neuer reygned in Rome/lyth that tyme,

Also how the Romayns/vnder thre dyctatours
Gouerned all regyons/of the worlde ryght wysely
Tyll Iulys Cesar/excellynge all conquerours
Subdued Pompeius/and toke the hole monarchy
And the rule of Rome/to hym selfe manfully
But Cassius Brutus/the fals conspyratour
Caused to be slayne/the sayd noble emperour.

After the sayd Iulys/succeded his systersone
Called Octauianus/in the imperypall see
And by his p:cepte/was made descrypcyon
To euery regyon/lande/shyre/and cytee
A trybute to pay/vnto his dygnyte
That tyme was/vnyuersall peas and honour
In whiche tyme was bozne/our blessed sauoure.

All these hystories/noble and auncyent
Reioysynge the audyence/he sange with pleasuer
And many other m: of the newe testament
Pleasant and p:ofytable/for thep: soules cure
Whiche be omittted/now not put in b:re
The mynysters were redy/thep: offyce to fulfyll
To take vp the tables/at thep: lordes wyll.

Whan this noble feest/and great solempnyte

Dayly endurynge / a longe tyme and space
Was royally ended / with honour and royalte
Eche kynge at other / lyfence taken hace
And so departed from thens / to theyr place
Kynge Walfer retourned / with worshyp and renoune
Frome the house of Ely / to his owne mansyon.

Of the holy professyon & ghostly conuersacyon saynt
Werburge vsed at Ely in relyggon. vnder saynt Andry
her abbesse and colyn. Ca. xviij.

So whan this byrgyn / the spouse of Ihesu
Had fully contynued / in holy relyggon
With mekenesse / pacyens / and all vertu
Fully the pere / of her probacyon
Than she made instaunce / for her professyon
Vnto saynt Andry / her lady and abbesse
Whiche soone was graunted / with great gladnesse.

Dynaunce they made / and great royalte
Her frendes were called / agaynst that season
She was professed / with great humylyte
The obseruaunce done / with due deuocyon
She made solempne vowe / of ghostly conuersacyon
Nekely to obserue / obedyence and chastyte
Endurynge her lyfe / and wyllfull pouerte.

By the example / of her perfeccyon
Many dyuers persones / of her noble lynage
Refused this worlde / and entred relyggon
Renouynge hayne pleasures / riches and maryage
Enclyned to vertu / for theyr ghostly auantage
Werburge f. ii.

As may be specyfyed / here after folowynge
Theyr names / theyr astate / and theyr good lyuynge.

Now this glorious byrgyn / after her desyre
Is ghosly maryed / to our lord Ihesu
Accordynge to her entent / and true loue entyre
She dayly encreased / frome vertu to vertu
With more strapter lyfe / byces to subdu
The longer she endured / in relygion
The better she prepared / her herte to deuocyon.

And tho this byrgyn / clerely dyd forsake
All ryches honours / and pleasures worldly
With all possessyons / for her lordes sake
She thought than she reygned / moost lyke a lady
Cause that she lyued / in chrystes seruyce dayly
And certayne it is / holy scripture recordynge
Who serues well god / dothe reygne lyke a kyng.

In prayer / penaunce / and / contemplacyon
Was all her busynesse / and study alway
Compasyng by what maner of medytacyon
She myght best please / our lord to his pay
Offerynge her persone / a true sacryfyce every day
No labour her greued / loue was so feruent
Her body vpon erthe / her soule in heuen lent.

Sweete / comly creatures / ladyes euerychone
Sekynge for pleasures / ryches and arayment
Blinded by your beaute / and synguler affectyon
Consyder this byrgyn / humble and pacient
Aspectacle of vertue / euer obedyent.

Beholde how she hase/clerely layde away
Her royall ryche clothes/and is in meke aray.

your garmentes now be gay and glazpous
Euery yere made/after a newe inuencion
Of sylke and beluet/costly and precpous
Bzothered full ryche/after the beest facpon
Shynnyng like angels/in your opynyon
Where lesse wolde suffyse/and content as well
As all that great cost/followyng wyle counsell.

A playne exsample/nor ye may take
Of this myghty kynges doughter dere
Whiche for the loue of god/dyd forsake
All suche bayne pleasures/and garmentes clere
She gaue herselfe/to penaunce and prayere
Wherfore saye ladys/do waye suche banyte
Prepare your selfe/to vertue and humylte.

Some of lowe byrthe/excellynge theyr degre
Done couet to haue/as royall ryche besture
Worldly honours/also the sufferaynte
As they were ladys/by lyne of nature
Of dredefull mysery/they here the fygure
Prowde as a Decoche/whelyng full byght
All is but banyte/contentynge the syght.

O Glazpous byrgyn/replete with synguler grace
Endowed with souerayne gyftes celestall
Refusynge boyde pleasures/whan thou had space
And honours transpory/whiche hath brought in thral
A thousande persones/in tynne to fall

Werburge.

f.iii.

200
I myrrour thou arte / of byrgynall clennes
Of true obedience / and perfyte mekenes.

So Werburge professed / to her rule full ryght
A redolent floure / all vertue to augment
As Lucyfer shynynge / a clere lampe of lyght
For whome her spouse / god sone omnyppotent
Shewed many myracles / to euerypacient
A sygne her loue was / supernaturall
Closed in our lord / by grace supernall.

The excellent goodnes / of this moyne
And fame of vertue / with humylyte
Transcended all other / in perfyte holynes
So that sundry persones / approached that party
For ghostly conforzte / counsell and remedy
Suche as to her came / pensyue / woo / and sadde
Departed toyfull / in soule mery and gladd.

She dayly prouyded / for ghostly treasure
To buyde her a place / a sure mansyon
Euer to remayne / with ioye and endure
In pleasure perpetuall / without corrupcion
Whiche she optayned / by her deuocyon
After this departure / to reygne as a presydent
In eterne blys / with god omnyppotent

¶ A lytell treatyse of the lyfe of saynt Audy abbelle of
Ely / and of her holy couersacyon and great deuocyon /
vnder whome saynt Werburge was made nonne / and
professed.

Ca. xviii.

609

The yere of our lord. bi. C. ix. and thirti
Regned saynt Anna/kyng of east Englande
Whiche maryed saynt Herewith/of the North party
They had noble yssue/as we vnderstande
Prynce Aldoulph and Jurwynne/in story as is founde
Saynt Serburge the quene/and blessed Audy
Saynt Ethelberge/Withburge/a holy progeny.

This blessed Audy/called Etheldred
Of two great kyngedomes/lynally descendynge
Was borne in Suffolke/as sayth saynt Bede
In a lytell byllage/called Ermyng
This noble prynces/and dere deelynge
With many great vertues/of grace illumynate
Magnyfied her parage/and royall estate.

This blessed Audy/from her yonge age
Was dyspoled euer/bnto sadnes
Obedyent lowly/bnto her parentage
Encreasynge in vertue/and constaunt sobrynes
Woꝛldely pleasures/dysportes/and wantonnes
Lyghtnes of language/and all presumption
In this sayd byrgyn/had no domynacyon.

Sad and demure/she was in countenaunce
Nothyng enclyned/bnto fragyltye
Benyng and pacyent/without perturbaunce
Meke/curteys/gentyll/full of humyltye
Wyde/statelenes/and sensualityte
Were not in her foude/by any condycyon
Curteyse in byhauour/bnto euery persone.

No man was greued / noz toke dyspleasure
At this sayd mayden / in her fathers hall
Euery honest persone / and reasonable creature
Were pleased with her / bothe one and all
None dyscontent / pryuate noz generall
She was so meke / and full of pacyence
That people desyred / to come to her presence.

She was beauteous / fayre and ampyable
Pleasaunte to beholde / in gyftes of nature
Her countenaunce comly / swete / louely / and stable
Nothyng dysposed / vnto worldly pleasure
More lyke an angell by all coniecture
Than a fragyll mayde / of sensuall appetyte
For in vayne pleasures / she had no delyte.

Whan that she came / to yerres of dyscrecyon
Dyuers her moeued / in way of maryage
Some offered ryches / coyalte / and renowne
Some other possellions landes and herytage
And some the sufferaynte / her mynde to asswage
All these she refused / for the loue of Ihesu
To whome she auowed / her chastyte full tru.

After that Venus had her longe assayled
To peruerthe her mynde / to worldly affectyon
And of all nettes and engynes / therof had fayled
Then came to her presence / a prynce of renowne
Called duke Combert / of the east regyon
Whiche longe desyred / to haue her in spousage
At the laste optayned / the wyll of her parentage.

Unto whiche thynges he wolde neuer encline
For all the mocyon of her hye parentes
Tyll she was assured / by heuenly doctryne
To kepe her byrgynyte / clere in conspencyng
Than she consented / without concupyscens
And with the sayd duke / she lyued in chastyte
Bothe mayden and wyfe / almost yeres thre.

After whose dethe / she remayned in Ely
In fastyng / prayer / byrgyls / and penaunce
Whiche place was gyuen / to her Joynt and dowry
By Combert her husbande / with great pleasaunce
This yle of Ely / by deuyne purueaunce
With muddy waters / is compased aboute
Theyr enemyes to greue / and strongly to holde out.

Thyder came Egbyrt / kynge of the north parte
To desyre saynt Audy / in matrymony
To whome she wolde neuer / consent in herte
For no maner counseyll / that myght be done truly
Tho her syster Serburge / moeued her tenderly
Tyll the angell of god / assured her to be
Quene / wyfe / and mayde / keepynge byrgynyte.

Than Audy graunted / maryed for to be
Unto this foresayd / noble kynge Egtryde
And at the maryage / was great solempnyte
Trumphes honoures / on euery syde
Great cost and royalte / they dyd prouyde
Frome Ely departed / vnto his owne place
In the North parte dwellynge / with great solace

By the grace of our lord god / moost of myght
And helpe of his mother / blessed mayd mary
By prayer of Audy / and by myracle ryght
Togyd they lyued / bothe in pure chastyte
The naturall mocyon / of his lascypte
Was shortly slaked / and feruent desyre
By myracle / as water quencheth the fyre.

Whan he apperceyued / her asured constaunce
Her persyte holynes / and chast contynence
His herte reioysed / of her contynuaunce
Of whome she desyred / with humble reuerence
And synguler supplicacyon to haue fre lyfence
At Canwod abbay / to enter relyggon
Whiche the kynge graunted / for her deuocyon.

Saynt Ebba syster / bnto saynt Oswolde
Was abbelle and ruler / of that congregacyon
Where blessed Audy / ryght as she wolde
Was reuerently receyued / into relyggon
And after the yere / of her probacyon
Professed there was / by byshop Wylstryde
Where all worldly honours she set on syde.

Frome thens she departed to the ple of Ely
More quyetly to lyue / out of busynesse
For drede of the kynge / her husbände truly
Purposynge to take her / frome that holynesse
She toke two maydens / with her doubtlesse
And in theyr Jounay / our lord of his grace
Shewed dyuers myacles / at eche restinge place.

The archebysshop of yorke / Wylfryde her confessor
Was depyved frome his benefyce / by the kynge cruelly
Observed pacyence / laudynge our sauyour
And folowed saynt Audy / to the place of Ely #
Whiche (as afore is sayd) was her Joynt and dowry
And electe her abbesse / on that congregacyon
Hooft worthy to be / for her holy conuersacyon.

Where Audy buylded / a chyrche of our lady #
With helpe of kynge Aldulph / her brother naturall
Dystaunt a myle / frome the olde monastery
Founded by saynt Austyn / for mercyte spyrytuall
Whiche place all desolate / the edyfied full specyall
By her prouysyon / an other noble monastery
The yere of grace / fyre hundreth seuenty and thre. 1673.

Whan the werke was ended / as her wyll was
She endowed the abbay / with fraunches and lyberte
And gaue the hole yle of Ely / to that place
With all commodytes / profettes / and yssues fre #
Frome all exaccyons / exempte clerely to be
Of kynge and byshop / confyrmed it at Rome
With all prelates & prynces / consentynge of this regyon.

In short tyme and space / to Audy dyd resorte
Relygious men and women / a great company
Professed in that place / for theyr ghostly conforte #
Renounsynge bayne pleasures / & honours transpory
Amonge whome saynt Werburge / professed solemply
Promysed in audyence / to lyue a lyfe monestycall
After saynt Benektes rule / for the lyfe eternall.

Werburge) *Wolfrat. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989. 990. 991. 992. 993. 994. 995. 996. 997. 998. 999. 1000.* G. it.

Also the yere of grace / fyre hundzeth seuenty and nyne
 In the moneth of Iulii / in the nyynth kalendas
 To heuen departed / saynt Audy the quene
 Than reygnyng in Kent / kyng Lothary by grace
 Aldulph in eest Englande / her brother whiche was
 Kyng Offryde her husbände / in Northumberlande
 Also kyng Ethelrede / than reygnyng in Merceland

A bzeue reherſal of þ lyfe of saynt Serburge / graūd
 mother to saynt Werburge. And of her comynge to Ely
 to her ſyſter Audy from Shepay monaſtery. Ca. xix.

The holy matrone / and quene saynt Serburge
 A kynges doughter / & moder to kynges twayne
 Syſter to saynt Audy / & graundmother to Werburge
 Of noble parentage / is comen certayne
 Of two realmes deſcendynge / lynyally and playne
 By her father / from the realme of eest Englande
 And by her mother / from Northumberlande.

Her father saynt Anna / as ſayth myne auctour
 Was kyng of the eest parte / ſone to Egnicius
 Whiche Anna was maryed / with moche honour
 To Herelwith / doughter to kyng Herericius
 And ſyſter to saynt Hylde / the byrgyn gracypus
 To whome saynt Edwyn / the glozypous marty
 Kyng of Northumberlande / was great graundfather.

This ſayd kyng Anna / lyued a longe ſpace
 In welthe / woꝛſhypp / honour / and proſperyte
 With his quene Herelwith / by ſynguler grace
 Obſeruyng Juſtyce / pacyence / and equitye

Kepte the p̄ceptes / of god almyghte
Mercefull and lyberall / to the poore in payne
Whiche kynge by Benda / was murdred and slayne.

As the ryuer passeth / oftetymes the heed fountayne
The lytell grasse oꝝ ympe / transcendeth the tree
Lyke wyse theyꝝ chyldren / encreased certayne
In mekenes / pacyence / and perfyte charyte
Aboue theyꝝ parentes / in vertue and benygnyte
So that theyꝝ name / lynage / and hye astate
By them was magnifyed / praysed and decorate.

Kynge Anna and Hereswith / had a noble yssue
Syre goodly chyldren / pleasaunt to beholde
None fayrer in this lande / myndyng all vertue
And to all good maners / dysposed manyfolde
yet was theyꝝ fayrenes / not equall to be tolde
To theyꝝ deuocyon / and synguler goodnes
Whose names expressed / ben afoze doubtles.

Serburge the eldest / of the systers all
Instructe by her parentes / in vertuous dyscyplene
Folowynge theyꝝ counsell / in herte full specyall
Prepared her soule / after theyꝝ doctryne
For aboue the age / of so yonge a femynyne
So that euery day / by grace and wysdome
In her dyd growe / some plant of deuocyon.

In all this realme / dylated was her fame
That whan she approached / vnto lawfull aage
Prynces / dukes / erles / herynge of her name
Desyred to haue Serburge / in maryage
Werburge.

And busily laboured vnto her parentage
This mayd was marryed with honour full excellent
Vnto Ercombert the noble kynge of Kent.

To whome kynge Ethelbert graundfather was
The fyrst chrysten kynge of Saxons and chefe flour
Baptysed by saynt Austyn thurgh heuently grace
He was to holy chyrche a specyall benefactour
Monasteryes and priores/ fouded with great honour
Kynge Cadwalde his lone/ exemple of hym toke
Whiche was father to Ercombert as sayth my boke.

This lady Serburge/ cyrcumfulled with grace
After her desyre/ and vertuous entent
Had leuer the monastery/ than the sayre palace
The chyrche to bylyte/ than with maryage be lent
But to her parentes/ she was euer obedyent
Folowynge theyr counseyll/ and of her frendes dere
In lawfull maryage/ toke the sayd kynge her fere.

A noble generacyon/ she hadde by the kynge
Egbert and Lothary two prynces prepotent
And two holy daughters/ in vertue chynnyng
Ermenylde and Erkengode by lynyall descent
This Ermenylde marryed/ with honour equyalent
Vnto kynge Wulfst had a royall ysue
The glourious Werburge replete with vertue.

Her syster Erkengode refused bitterly
Honours/ worshyp/ and worldly possessyon
Ryches/ maryage/ and pleasures transpoynt
Went vnto fraunce/ with humble deuocyon

At the Cytie of Burges / entred religyon
Where Ethelberge her aunt / was ruler and abbesse
Toggyder they lyued / in perfyte holynesse.

This honozable Serburge / and blessed matrone
Refusynge worldly honours / and solemnyte
Preferred mekenesse / and perfyte deuocyon
Aboue all rynges / power and dygnyte
Auoyded ambycyon / obserued humylyte
Upon pooze people / euer had compassion
And them releued / with due myghty tracoun.

She made her palace / many tymes an hospittall
Her pryuate cubycle / a deuoute oratory
As a kynde moether ampyable / in courte and in hall
Wekely fulfilled / the seuen werkes of mercy
Oftetymes in the chyrche / selde amonge company
Yet euer whan she myght / haue tyme and space
Magnyfyed and praysed / our lord in secrete place.

She instructe her husbände / in ghostly vertu
To great holynesse / and spnguler perfectyon
So by her counseill / with the grace of Ihesu
Frome infydelyte / purged was that regyon
Destroyed theyz ydolles / theyz sectes euerychone
Restaured temples / vnto chrystes honour
Founded monasteryes / by her cost and labour.

The kynge by her mocyon / commaunded straytly
All his people and subiectes / vpon sharpe correcyon
To obserue prayer / and penaunce deuoutely
And truly fox to fast / the holy tyme of Lenton

Werburge.

g. liff.

700.
The archbysshop Theodorius/and fathers of relygion
Conspydence her pacence/and benygnyte
Reioysed in her dedes/and prayd the tynpte.

Whan the famous Ercombert/the sayd kynge of Kent
Foure & twenty yere had reygned/ in honour full copall
With blessed Serburge his quene excellent
Than he departed/ frome this lyfe mortall
The quene prepared/ the obseques funerall
With great lamentacyon/ and great copalce
As was conuenient/ for his state and degree

After that Serburge/ refused worldly pleasure
Entred relygion/ professed chastyte
At Shepary monastery/ in Kent full sure
Bylded at her cost/ full honozable
After electe Abbesse/ and ruler of that companie
To whome she was/ a myrcour of mekenes
And exemple of vertue/ and proued holynes.

As she was occuppyed/ in medytacyon
An heuenly messenger/ to her was sent
Shewynge how for synne/ and transgressyon
Englande shulde suffer/ great punysment
And be subdued/ with greuous torment
Wherfore she lefte/ in good rule that place
And dyd electe to them/ an other abbace.

Serburge toke lycence/ of her systers all
Commendynge them/ vnto the tynpte
And so departed/ fro her chyldren spryтуall
With labour attayned/ to the hous of Elze

There to be subiecte / to her syster Audye
And to her doctryne / apply her entent
Unto rehygion / euer founde obedyent.

Saynt Audye was gladd / of her systers comynge
In lyke maner / were all the hole congregacyon
With myghtes and solace / in soule rejoyng
To haue the p[re]sence / of so worthy a persone
There lyued togyder / in p[er]fyt deuocyon
Tyll blessed Audye / frome this lyfe mortall
Departed was / to the lyfe eternall.

After whose buryall / Serburge was electe
To be abbess and ruler / ouer that couent
Whiche to all vertue / her mynde dyd erecte
And the .xvi. yere after / with labours dyligent
She translate saynt Audye / that noble p[re]sident
Beynge hole incorrupte / also substancyall
In body and in vesture / by grace supernall.

How saynt Ermenylde after the dethe of kynge Uul
fer her husbade was made a nonne at Ely / vnder her mo
ther saynt Serburge abbess / and Werburge her deu
oute doughter. Ca. xx.

Of Mercys the kynge / wha the foresayd Uulfere
Had regned in honour / worship and royalte
With saynt Ermenylde his quene / fully .xvii. yere
Unto euerlastyng blyss / departed than he
And buryed was / with moche solempnyte
In Lychefeld ch[ur]che / after hym there dyd succede
In to the kyngdome / his brother Ethelrede.

The quene for her husbände/ made great lamentacyon
Dolefully lamentynge/ nyght and day his departure
As nature enuyred/ endurynge a longe season
Remayned in wydohode/ and mournynge besture
yet after all heuynesse/ penaunce/ and dysconforture
She reioysed in soule/ to be at lyberte
Entendynge relyggon/ by grace of the tryngte.

Soone she departed/ to the hous of Ely
Refusynge this worlde/ pleasures possessyon
Instauntly requyred/ with perfyte humylyte
To be a moyne/ accepte in relyggon
Gladde was the abbesse/ of her conuersyon
And thanked our lord/ of his specyall grace
So dyd all the systers/ within the sayd place.

Her naturall mother/ blessed Serburge
That tyme was lady/ and chiefe presydent
There was professed/ her doughter Werburge
An exemple of mekenes/ to all the couent
Ermenylde thanked god/ and was obedyent
To her mother Serburge/ a myrrour of vertu
Also to her doughter/ the spouses of Ihesu.

It passeth mannes reason/ playnly to expresse
Her vertuous lyfe/ and ghostly conuersacyon
In prayer/ penaunce/ and proued mekenesse
In perfyte obedyence/ and synguler deuocyon
In bygyls/ abstynence/ and in hys perfeccyon
The codydane labours/ her body to chastyce
That her soule may be/ to god true sacryfyce.

Bycause that Werburge / in order was senpoure
Her mother Ermenylde / gaue her the sufferaynte
Pferrynge her doughter / with mekenes and honoure
But yet her doughter / of a naturall ampte
Pferred her mother / with humble senpozte
And so bytweene them / was a swete contencion
Wheder shulde moze subiecte be / to other in relygion.

Afoze whan Ermenylde / was vnder maryage
Vnto holy matrones / she was comparable
Sara / Rebecca / Rachell / and Sybell sage
And saynt Elfsabeth / with other mo honozable
Now in relygion / she is moost notable
Knownen by her vertues / and sadde dysposycion
What vnder matrimony / was her intencion.

Ermenylde subdued / by synguler deuyne grace
All fragyll mocyons / and sensualyte
Lyke maner as Iudyth / Olofernes slayne hace
She mortyfied all pleasures / lustes and volupts
Lyke wyse as Iaell / dyd the prynce Spfare
A duches of vertue / as whylom was Delboza
Used the oratory / in prayer as dyd Anna.

After the departure / and wofull buryall
Of Serburge her mother / abbess and lady
Her doughter Ermenylde / the blessed monyall
Was chosen abbess / and ruler of Ely
As sheweth dan Wyllyam / of Malysbury
How fyrst was Audy / than Serburge her syster
Afterwarde was abbess / Ermenylde her doughter.

The lyfe of Ermenylde / was ever vertuous
Pleasant to god / and her sisters everychone
In the syght of god / her dethe was petyous
Plainly notyfied / by her conuersacyon
She vertuously gouerned / her congregacyon
Frome this lyfe departed / to eternall glory
As sayth her legende / the Idus of February.

And buryed was / with moche lamentacyon
In the holy monastery / and house of Ely
Amonge her parentage / and congregacyon
Where she is chyrned / with her aunt saynt Audy
And with her mother / saynt Serburge ryche
For whome our sayour / of his pecyall grace
She weth dayly myzacles / in that sayd place.

One of the myzacles / we shall now rehers
Our lord for her shewed / at Ely abbay
After her translacyon / the story dothe expres
It fortunied in Whytson weke / vpon a thursday
An Englysshman was bounden / in wofull aray
Fetered with yrons / bothe on handes and fete
Wrongfully acculed / as ye may all wete.

By instaunt request / he gate hym lycence
To byspte the tombe / of saynt Ermenylde
Whome he requyred / with humble reuerence
And meke petycyon / frome the herte full mylde
To be delquered / and fully reconlyde
Whose humble desyre / and singular supplicacyon
Was fully graunted / to his consolacyon.

At this tyme / whan this holy man was prayenge
Whan the Deken redde the holy gospel
By meane of Ermenylde / to our lord and kyng
Frome his handes and fete / the yrons done fell
By grace aboue nature / merueylously to tell
That the sayd yrons / insyght of all the betherne
Sprange bp sodenly / and lyght vpon the aulter.

Aliud miraculum.

Another myracle / declare now may we
Done at the sayd Ely / by this holy matrone
In pcesence of the pypoz / and all the fraternyte
Whiche pypoz of this mater / had best notycon
A scole mayster of Innocentes / after the custome
Gave lyfence / vpon saynt Ermenyldes day
To all his chyldren / to sport them in play.

Whan the feest / and solempnyte was done
The yonge tender chyldren / wanton and necligent
Dedyngge theyr mayster / for fere of correccyon
To the holp shyne / they assembled full dyligent
Trustyngge therby of pardon / after theyr entent
Desyred theyr mayster / for saynt Ermenyldes sake
To pardon theyr trespas / and no dyspleasure take.

The mapster fulfylled / with hastynes and euny
Toke them frome the tombe / with great indygnacyon
Without dyscrecyon / punysshed them greuouly
Gyuyngge no honout / to the saynt ne deuocyon
Rebuked them sore / sayenge with insultacyon
Croue ye to be spared / from punysshment this day
For saynt Ermenyldes sake / nay nay do way.

After all this done / the nexte nyght folowynge
Whan the sayd mayster / to his bedde was gone
His great unkyndenes / saynt Ermenylde remembrynge
Remained hym Justly / after his guerdon
His handes and his fete / prompte to persecucion
Were sodenly smytten / made lame / contracte also
No power had to ryse / to moeue no: to go.

This sodayne punysshement / langour / confusyon
Uered hym greuously in all his body
Moost terribble of all / of helthe desperacon
Inwardly hym troubled / with peynes horribble
But yet by grace / he thought best remedy
Sende for his chyldren / vpon the other day
Humble asked them pardon / in a wofull aray.

Despyrnyng his scolers / for loue and charyte
To cary hym moost careful / to her sepulture
To requyre for hym grace / helthe and prosperyte
Of god and saynt Ermenylde / with all they cure
They toke hym tenderly / ye may me leue full sure
Amonge them all / with mynde bylygent
And brought to the chynne / this wretched impotent.

They prayed for hym / to our blessed sauour
And to saynt Ermenylde / a longe tyme and space
Knelynge on theyr knees / wepyng full sore
In prayer and psalmody / for his helthe and solace
And so contynuyng / by our lordes great grace
He that afore was lame / bothe on fore and hande
Restored to helthe / departed hole and sounde.

THow kynge Ethelrede seynge the holy conuersacyon
of Werburge his nece/ made her lady and abbesse at We
don/ Trentam/ and Humbury. And by her counseyll and
exsample was made moke at Wardeney abbay. Ca. xxi.

A He famous pynce/ and foresayd Ethelrede
Brother to kyng Uulfer/ as lawfull enherytour
To the sayd kyngedome/ dyd nexte hym succede
Electe of his peeres/ with worshipp and honour
Permytted by his chyche/ to be theyr gouernour
Bycause pynce Kenrede/ his brother sone
Was yonge and not able/ to rule his kyngdome.

This sayd kynge Ethelrede/ clerely consydeyrnge
With due cōsumstaunce/ the hys perfeccyon
Of Werburge his nece/ and vertuous lyuynge
Her great holynesse/ and ghostly conuersacyon
Dailly encreasynge/ with feruent deuocyon
The excellent fame/ and myracles full ryght
Shewed by our saupour/ bothe day and nyght.

These good examplis/ grounded in vertu
Moued kynge Ethelrede/ in soule and in mynde
And clerely conuerted/ throu the grace of Ihesu
To despyse this worlde/ wretched and blynde
Pryncypally by grace/ wyten as we fynde
For her great goodnes/ and vertues excellent
He made her lady/ ruler/ and p̄sident.

Ouer all the nonnes/ of euery monastery
Within his realme/ to gouerne and to guyde
To instructe and informe/ and to exemplary

To encrease deuocyon/þ pon euery syde
Vertue to exalte/to subdue byce and pryde
That holy relyggon/pleasaunt to chryst Ihesu
Myght dayly encrease/frome vertu to vertu.

Also he gaue Werburge/great possessyon
Landes/and rentes/ryches withall
To edify and repayre places of relyggon
After her desyre/with fauour specyall
Wherwith she buylded/famous memoypall
Two fayre monasteryes/Trentam and Humbury
Possessed with rentes/landes/and lyberte.

Also by sufferaunce/of the sayd kynge truly
She translate the kynges maner of Wedon
Whiche was in Hamptonshyre/into a monastery
Of holy women/obseruynge relyggon
Sufficyently endowed/with lybertes/possessyon
Of whiche sayd places/she had the gouernaunce
As woorthy maystres/all vertue to auauce.

684 H The yere of grace/syre hundzeth foure scoze and nyen
As sheweth myne auctour/a Bytton Giraldus
Kynge Ethelred/myndynge moost the blysse of heuen
Edified a collage chyrche/notable and famous
In the subbarbes of Chester/pleasaunt and beauteous
In the honour of god/and the Baptyst saynt Iohan
With helpe of bysshop Wulfryce/and good exortacyon.

Also at the humble/and synguler supplicacyon
Of blessed Egwyn/bysshop of worcestre
This kynge gaue a place/for a fundacyon

To buyde a monastery / to relygyous brethur
At Eufam upon Inen / for heuenly tresur
With a large precept / to compass all the abbay
More quyetly to serue / our sauour nyght and day.

After this tyme / Ethelrede the kynge
By his counseyll marped / a beautefull lady
Called quene Dstryde / a woman of good lypunge
Bozne in the North parte / doughter to kynge Oswy
To whome saynt Oswalde / was vncler truly
The issue byt wene them / after to succede
Was a noble pryncce / nomynate Colrede.

Agaynst his enemyes / the kynge gate byctory
Fortunate in batayle / sore oppressed Kent
In all this regyon / famous was his chyualtry
Namely he subdued / at the water of Trent
Egtryde of Northumberlande / a kynge auncyent
His brother in lawe / whan Egtryde agaynst reason
Entred his landes / by subtyll intrusyon.

But after that Dstryde / his quene was slayne
By people of the North parte / moost cruelly
The kynge frome that tyme / by grace certayne
Chaunged his maners / and lypunge dayly
Frome tempozall cures / and busynesse worldly
To ghostly werkes / and contemplacyon
Sekynge for heuen / with pure deuocyon.

Specyally he folowed / saynt Werburge counsell
Aspunge hym after / her swete ghostly doctryne
The clete examplis / as we afore dyd tell
Werburge.

Mooued his conscience/ to ghostly dysceplyne
With suche contricyon/ by specyall grace deuynne
That all vayne pleasures/ and honour stransporye
Were clere expelled/ and put out of memoꝝy.

This kynge refused/ his septr and crowne
Clothes of Tyshem/ and purpull full royall
With ryches/ lybertes/ pleasures/ possessyon
For the loue of Ihesu/ in herte pꝛyncypall
And for the meryte/ of his soule helthe withall
So whan he had reigned/ nyne and twenty yere
He chaunged his habyte/ sayth the story clere.

At a relygyous place/ nomynde Bardenay
= In Lyncolne shyre/ vnder his domynyon
Synguler byloued/ of hym alway
Desyꝛed the habyte/ with meke supplycacyon
And was receyued/ pꝛofessynge relygyon
Euer after to obserue/ the essencys thre
≠ Obedyence/ chastyte/ and wylfull pouerte.

He assygned his crowne/ and temporall dygnyte
Vnto pꝛynce Kentebe/ his brother sone
As true enherytour/ to haue regalyte
For in pure obedynce/ prayer and medytacyon
Ethelrede encreased/ with feruent deuocyon
And as declareth/ wyllyam of Malysbury
After was made abbot/ of the sayd monastery.

The holy conuersacyon of kynge Kentebe brother to
saynt Werburge/ & how he refused his crowne/ and was
made monke at Rome/ & ther departed a holy cōfessour.

Ca. xxi.

So when kynge Etheldrede/ by heuenly grace
At Bardenay abbay/ professed relygion
Than pryncce Kentede/ his successour was
And toke the Empryre/ the septre and the crowne
With moche worshyp/ royalte/ and renoune
As nexte of inherytaunce/ by law naturall
To be kynge of Mercyens/ by dyscent lynyall.

This noble kynge Kentede/ replete with vertu
Brother to Werburge/ obserued trulpy
The commaundmentes of god/ & his lawes moost tru
Obedyent to our saupour/ and lord almyghty
Loued holy chyrche/ moost tenderly
Mynystred Justyce/ to his subiectes all
Mercyfull to the poore/ ppyteous and lyberall.

In all his realme/ was no dyuersyte
Malycie was subdued/ rancour and debate
Vertue encreased/ true loue and charyte
Enuy was exyled/ and all pryuy hate
Thefte/ murthur/ robbery/ were founde at no gate
True men myghtlyue/ without beracyon
Hollers/ promoters/ had no domynacyon.

He gaue to our saupour/ and bysshop Egwyn
For ghostly mercyte/ with moche honoure
Of tenementes and landes/ playnely to determyne
Within worceter shyre. iiii. score and foure
To maynteyne the monastery/ spoken of before
Euesham vpon Auen/ byfore lawfull wytnes
As the legende of Egwyn/ trulpy dothe expres.

To the courte of Rome/kyng Henre went
So dyd Offa kyng/ of the east Saxons
Also bysshop Egwyn/ by one assent
Deuoutly to byspte all the hole stacyons
Of the cytee of Rome/ with humble supplicacyons
Thankynge our lord/ of his mercy
Hath them p̄serued/ and all they? company.

This holy bysshop/ and kyng Henrede
Offered to our holy father/ pope boneface
With mekenes deuocyon/ for ghosly mede
Afoze his collage/ wytnes in that case
The forsayd monastery/ and relyggyous place
Frome that day euer after/ to be clerely exempte
To the popes holynes/ immediatly obedyent.

Whan they had optayned/ perfyte expedycon
Of all they? bulles/ after they? entent
They toke lycence/ and had the popes beneson
And towarde Englāde/ retourned and went
Praylynge our lord/ with herte and loue feruent
For they? good spede/ and prosperous Jounay
P̄serued in good helthe/ all to they? countray.

After all this done/ Henrede the sayd kyng
Commaunded to be had/ a counseyll generall
By letters myssyue/ his peeres and lordes cptynge
Shortly to be p̄sent/ with hym one and all
As well the spyrytualte/ as the tempozall
The Seyn was kepte/ at a place called Alue
And thyder assembled/ his p̄lates of degre.

Berthelmabous / the archbysshop of Canturbury
The archbysshop of poike / called Wylfere
With bysshops / suffreganes / archdekenys many
Dukes / erles / barons / bypon every syde
Knyghtes / esquyers / and comunys that tyme
Were redy to knowe / the kynges mynde and pleasure
Well ordeyd in place / and scyence kepte sure.

This glorvous kennebe / crowned with golde
Clothed in purpull / rose vp fro his place
After due salutacyon / the cause mekely he tolde
Why he for them sende / and wherfore it was
That they shulde testyfy / with hym in this case
What landes he gaue / towarde the fundacyon
Of the sayd monastery / with grete deuocyon.

And how for that abbay / he went to Rome
And made the place subiecte / immediatly
To our father boniface / and gate an exempcyon
For euer to remayne / to the sayd monastery
With pardons and pryvileges / there redde openly
And many other benefytes / of great comynodyte
Wryten in theyr grauntes / wholyst them to se.

Requyringe the lordes / spyrтуall and tempozall
To graunte to the same / with good entent
And it to confyrme / and roborate spецyall
With charters and dedes / and seales patent
To whose petycyon / they dyd all consent
Made confyrmyacions / and grauntes them amonge
With a terryble sentence / who dothe the place wronge.

Kynge Kencede consyderynge / the great holynes
Of his noble parentes / his vnckles euerychone
They? copall progeny / the sufferaunt goodnes
From this lyfe transytoz / to heuen agone
Namely the vertue / and seruent deuocyon
Of his syster Werburge / and his aunes all
Moeued his mynde / to seke for lyfe eternall.

And as saynt Bede sayth / whan this noble kynge
Had regned fyue yere / in great prosperyte
He forsoke this worlde / and chaunged his lypynge
Refusynge his crowne / septr / and dygnyte
All bayne honours / ryches and regalyte
And made his vncklesone / pryncce Coelcede
To take his empyre / after hym to succede.

So with all gentylnes / and humylpte
The kynge of his subiectes / toke leue speryall
Commendynge his people / to the trynyte
Them to conserue / spyrtyuall and tempozall
Of his departure / dolorous were they all
Thus for the loue / of our saypoure
He refused this worlde / pleasures and honours.

And went to Rome agayne / the yere of grace
Seuen hundredeth and eyght / by full computacyon
Uysptynge the stacyons / frome place to place
There was professed / to saynt Benettes relygyon
Vsed by gyrls / fastynge / prayer / medytacyon
Where this holy monke / frome this lyfe transytoz
With vertu departed / to eternall glory.

Colp feruent & ghosly deuorion of saynt Werburge
& bertuous goneratrice of her places / & of p great humi-
lite she bled to her sisters / & al other creatures. Ca. xiiii.

A his venerable Werburge / & moynes gracious
for her great vertue / and persyte holynesse
Elected to be gouernour / ouer the nonnes reiligeous
By her vncl kynge Ethelrede / of his goodnesse
ouer dyuers monasteries (as is sayd) expresse
Was consecrate abbess / and lady gracious
By the byshop of Lychefeld / nominat Seruulfus.

And thus she departed / fro the hous of Ely
Wherin she bled / heuently medytacyon
With lyccnce optayned / in mynde sad and heauy
So were the sisters / and all the congregacyon
Of her departure / knowynge her conuersacyon
But as wolbe charyte / they had great gladnes
Knowynge by her vertue / relygion to entres.

The spouses of Ihesu / and floure of benygnyte
Consyderynge her selfe / a lady and pseydent
Ordered her monasteries: ryght well and wysle
Receyued in sisters / chaste / humble / obedyent
ouer them made rulers / bertuous / and pacient
Her subiectes to instructe / and counseyll day and nyght
Vertue to exalte / and byce depyue aryght.

This noble abbess / remembrynge her duty
What charge it is / to rule a congregacyon
Humble requyred / the grace of god almyghty
And dyligently prepared / to supple her rowme

Pryncypally she gaue/ to them euery chone
worthy example/ of vertue in her debed
with vertuous doctrine/ the same to procede.

A myrrour of mekenesse/ she was to them all
A floure of chastyte/ and well of clemmes
The fruyte of obedyence/ in her was specyall
Refusynge hayne pleasures/ honours and ryches
Content with lytell/ an example of lowlynes
As dothe belonge/ unto wylfull pouerte
Wyde had no resydence/ but all humylyte.

She was a myrryster/ rather than a maystres
Her great preemynence/ caused no presumption
She was a handmayd/ rather than a pryores
Seruyng her systers/ with humble subieccion
Subduyng her body/ to penaunce and affliccion
Subiecte to the soule/ as reason wolde shulde be
A true sacryfyce/ offered to the trynitye.

It was no merueyll/ tho all her content
Under suche a ruler/ encreased in vertu
Seyng her example/ afoze them dayly present
Euer augmentynge/ throue the helpe of Ihesu
Wo:ldy desyres/ she clerely dyd subdue
She neuer ware lynon/ by day or by nyght
All ryche hayne vestures/ she set by them but lyght.

In prayer medytacyon/ the tyme she dyspent
Proued: for euery nyght/ longe afoze matyns
The wolde bypyle/ at an houre conuenient
And deuoutely say/ afoze our lordes presens

Dauid spalter holly knelynge/with great reuerence
Or that her sisters/came to the oratory
To say dwayne scrupre/kyndyng her all redy.

At after matyns/she bled contemplacyon
Contynually abydyng/buto the day lght
Prostrate on the ground/or knelynge in deuocyon
Weppynge full tenderly/with teeres downe ryght
Many holy oraysons/she sayd day and nyght
Piteous mercyable/and full of charyte
To the poore people/in theyr necessitye.

This lady obserued/suche sharpe abstinence
That one dayly repast/wolde her well suffice
Delycate dytche meates/were put out of her presence
So nature were content/in moost humble wyse
The worde of god/was moost delycate scrupre
Abydyng moche more/the soule to satisfy
Than please and content/her enemy the body.

These sayd examples/with many other mo
Pleasaunte vnto Ihesu/she taught her couent
Them to preserve/frome theyr mortall fo
By synguler vertue/grace to augment
Her precepte and luyng/were euer correspondent
She neuer commaunded sisters/do any thinge
But it was fulfilled/in her owne doyng.

She exorted her chyldren/euer to deuocyon
With many folde doctrynes/plynes to excheue
Lyke a tender mother/had pyte and compallyon
She dayly fedde them/and nourtysed in all vertue
Werburge.

And bylygently prayed / our sauour Ihesu
Them to p̄serue / of his insynpte grace
Frome peryll of peryfhyng / in blyss to se his face.

Also the .xii. degrees / of humyltye
Pacence / quyetnes / and great perfeccyon
Were well obserued / with true loue and charyte
Amonge her systers / the hole congregacyon
And the thre essencys / of relygyon
Wylfull pouerte / chastyte / and obedyence
were truly fulfylled / p̄oued by the consequence.

As for a pastyme / amonge her systers all
She caused to be redde / auoydng ydlenesse
The swete legendary / for a memoryall
And *Vitas patrum* / thewng great swetenesse
With other narracyons / of grace and goodnesse
Ofttymes to her couent / she had a comyn sayenge
Please god and loue hym / and doubt ye nothyng.

All reders excuse me / tho I can not expresse
For lacke of lernynge / the vertues morall
The hye perfeccyon / and p̄oued holynesse
Of this pure byrgyn / and sanctymonypall
Wherwith was decorate / her lyfe monestypall
Manyfest with myracles / by mertye of her mekenesse
As the true bystozy / playnly dothe expresse.

The wo:th myracles / of this byrgyn pure
Dylated were / th:ugh all this regyon
By deuyne sufferauce / aboue nature
P̄ofytable / to every chrysten synguler persone

In fekenesse / trouble / peyne or betrayson
Of her they haue refuge / helpe / and socoure
By her merytes / and praye / that euery honoure.

Her merytes were moche more commendable
Than were her myracles / manifest and playne
For why by her merytes / famous and notable
Sygnes and myracles / were shewed full playne
In the house of Ely / by grace of our sufferayne
And in euery place / where she kepte residence
Of whome parte folowen / in this rude sentence.

How at Wedon wyld gees were pynned by her com-
maundymment / & also releshed & put at lyberte. Ca. xxiiii.

A His holy byrgyn whan she dwelled at Wedon
In Northampton shyre / with a deuoute couent
Whiche place somtyme / was the kynges mansyon
Translated to an abbay / by her commaundymment
A myracle was done / by this noble presydent
As the true legende playnly dothe vs say
And all the inhabytauntes / vnto this present day.

A great myltitude / somtyme of wyld gees
Comunely called Gauntes / made great descrepcyon
Upon her landes / pastures waters and feldes
Deuourynge the cornes / and fruytes of Wedon
Greuous to her subiectes / within that possellon
The people coude fynde / no suffycient remedy.
But shewed theyr complaynte / to Werburge theyr lady.

Whan Werburge had herd / this greuous complayne
Werburge.

How the cornes were wasted / þ̄ tenauntes hurte ther by
Her herte was moeued / with charyte than certayne
To save her fruytes / and helpe her company
Wherfore she commaunded a seruaunt go hastely
To dꝛyue those wyld gees / a byngebome to her place
There to be pynned / and punysshed for theyr trespase.

The messenger merueyled / and mused in his mynde
Of this straunge message / stode styll in a study
Knowynge it well / it passed course of kynde
Wyld gees for to pynne / by any mannes polycy
Syth nature hath ordeyned / suche byrdes to fly
Supposynge his lady / had ben vnreasonable
Commaundyng to do / a thyng vnpossyble.

With wordes of conforzte / she sayd to hym agayne
Go in my name / do my commaundment
The seruaunt went forth / thynkyng all but bayne
Vnto the foldes / where the byrdes were lent
And sayd his message / with mynde and good entent
My lady commaundes you / byrdes euerychone
Afoze me to go / vnto her proper mansyone.

A merueylous thyng / transcendynge nature
Vnto his wordes / the gees were obedynt
Not one departed / fro thens ye may besure
Of all the nombꝛe / that there were present
Towarde her place / afoze hym they went
Meekely / as yf they had reason naturall
Vnto her pꝛesence / he brought the gauntes all.

Dredefully daryng / comen now they be

by
ce
They wynges traylynge/entred into the hall
For great confusyon/after they kynde and propre
Mournyng in theyr maner/abydyinge one and all
Her wyll and Judgmen/with mercy specyall
Lamentynge all nyght/there in captiuyte
Tyll the morowe after/withouten lyberte.

All that same nyght/Werburge dyd contynue
In deuoute prayers/and ympnes celestyall
After her olde custome/bsed in all vertue
In the mournyng after/the byrdes that were thral
With hye voyces(as yf it were)on her dyd call
For grace and pardon/of theyr offence
And of departure/to haue fre lycence.

Than she full pyteous/to euery creature
Upon these byrdes hauynge compassyon
Delyuered them/frome all daunger and cure
Frely to departe/under this condycyon
That none of them/upon the lordshipp of Wedon
Shulde make destruccyon/no lyght by any way
On cornes or fruytes/neuer after that day.

Neuertheles a seruaunt/one of the gees dyd take
And pryuely hydde it/agaynst iustyce and ryght
Unknowynge to Werburge/suche byby to make
The byrdes departed/moost glad to take theyr flyght
From theyr tender Judge/but whan they sawe in syght
One of theyr felawes/taken frome theyr company
The sayd great nombre/of gees retourned hastely.

They flewe ouer/this blessed byrgens hall
Werburge.

Mournynge and waylynge/after theyr entent
And wolde not departe/but fast on her dyd call.
yet they durst not lyght/for drede of her comaundment
But in theyr maner & kynde they sayd/o swete president
Why suffer ye suche wyckednes/done for to be
Anendes our felawe/agaynst all ryght and charyte.

Werburge went fyrst/to knowe wherfore and why
These byrdes retourned/so hastily certayne
By grace she perceyued/the cause of it truly
And tryed out the truthe/of all the mater playne
She restaured the byrde/to his felyshyp agayne
And gaue them a lesson/or they went her fro
How they shulde prayse/theyr maker and sufferayne
Sayenge (benedicite volucres celi domino)

But as Wyllyam Malysbury/sheweth expresse
The goos that was taken/and stollen afore away
Was colted and eten/the same nyght doubtlesse
So whan it was asked/for vpon the other day
The bare bones were brough/after this lady beray
And there by the vertue/of her benedycyon
The byrde was restaured/and flew away full soone.

Certaynly frome that tyme/vnto this present day
As all the people knowe/dwellynge aboute Wedon
The foresayd wyld gees/attempten by no way
To hurte theyr fruytes/ne lyght in that possessyon
No merueyll it is/remembryng the deuocyon
And true loue she had/to god omny potent
For vnto vertue/all thyng is obedyent.

How a tyrant without pyte punyshenge an Innocent was punyshed/ & after made hole. Ca. xxb.

Either to declare/ the pacyence and humylyte
And the synguler grace/ grounded in this abbas
As in the true legende/ playnly ye may se
We shall parte rehers/ to augment your solas
Werburge had a seruaunte/ whiche named was
Alnotus a man/ of meke conuersacyon
Knownen by his merytes/ after due probacyon.

Also a baylyfe she had/ a cruell tyrant
Whiche pyteously punyshed/ without reason
And wounded greuously/ Alnot her seruaunt
Without any greuaunce/ at the place of Wedon
Werburge for pyte/ and great compassyon
Afore this caytife/ kneeled on her knee
Prayenge hym to cease/ for loue of the trynityte.

Sayenge why does thou punyssh/ this innocent
Causeles without mercy/ whiche I byleue playne
Is moze acceptable/ to our lord omnypotent
Than many other be/ for his mekenesse certayne
The baylyfe at her prayer/ wolde not refrayne
But punyshed hym styll/ in his fury and pryde
Tyll the vengeance of god/ fell on hym that tyde.

Incontynente his heed/ his necke/ and his face
Were touned backward/ lyke a persone monstrous
Contrary to nature/ for his great trespace
Crucyate with sorowe/ and peynes hyduous
Contynually encreasynge/ to beholde pyteous
Werburge.

At the last remembred / of the best remedy
Fell prostrate to the fete / of Werburge his lady.

And cryed vpon her / with wofull chere
Weeping / lamentynge / his great myquyte
O my louely lady / and maystres moost dere
Helpe me swete abbesse / in this necessity
I haue offended god / now pray for me
And I wyll neuer / endurynge all my lyfe
Dysplease no more / man / mayde / ne wyfe.

Whan Werburge consydered / his great contricyon
His woofull herte / and lamentable crye
Upon hym she had / tender compassyon
Beholdynge his greuaunce / and tender agony
Good brother she sayd / who so wyll haue mercy
Must be mercypable / as in prouerbe wyten is
Who is without mercy / of mercy shall mys.

Call vnto mynde / thy owne wycked dede
In punysshynge this poore man / without offence
To se his punysshment / my herte soze dyd blede
I kneled afore thy fete / desyringe indulgence
Thou toke no regarde / to my prayer ne presence
Wherfore the Justyce / of god almyghty
Upon the is fallen / for thy synne todayly.

Whan she had ended / her ghostly exortacyon
Receyuyng hym penitent / with great humylyte
Gladde to amende / byce and transgressyon
None vnto prayer / she went with charyte
Optyned forgyuenesse / of the blessed trynyte

His fylname/restaured to his kynde agayne
Bothe bodyly and ghostly/cured was certayne.

This foxsayd Alnotus/by synguler grace
Refused this worlde/pleasures and vanite
Went vnto wyldernesse/and anchozpte was
Whome theues martyred/to heuen blyss he
At Stow besyde Bukbyrge/burped was trule
For whome our lord/of his infynyte goodnes
Shewed many myzacles/affyrmyng his holynes.

How dyuers prynces solowynge sensualityte intens
dyng to violate this byrgyn bi power/bi myzacle were
put to confusyon. Ca.xxvi.

Another spgne was shewed/by the kyng of blys
Of a wanton pryncce/solowynge sensualityte
And his fragyll appetyte/in doyng amys
Entendynge by violence/power/and auctozpte
To depzue Werburge/of her byrgynyte
Espped a season/to fulfyll his entent
Whan she was solptary/and no man there present.

By force than he began/this mayd to assaile
But she trustynge in god/to be her protectour
Escappynge his presence/cast her sacrat bayle
For lyghtnesse and ease/to fle from the traytour
The sonne beame receyued it/whiche haged that houre
Whiche myzacle sent/the pryncce fledde away
The byrgyn was preserved/by grace that day.

Another myzacle/was done in Kent

In the byllage of Hoo / pet full memoꝛous
A sensuall pꝛynce / of wycked consent
Purposed to maculate / this byꝛgyn gloꝛious
Consyderynge her persone / so fayre and beauteous
Carped the season / to fynde her solytary
By power to oppresse / this gracypus lady.

Whan the tyme was comen / he thought conuenient
After her furpoussly / he ranne a fast pace
She knowynge his mynde / add ynchast entent
Seynge no remedy / by man in that place
Called to our sauoure / foꝛ his helpe and grace
Sayenge blessed loꝛde / foꝛ thy endeles pyte
Defende me this dape / and saue my chastyte.

And as she fledde / frome this cruell persone
She ranne foꝛ socour / to a great oke tree
By grace the sayd tree / opened that same season
Sufferynge this mayd / to haue sure and fre entree
Wherby she escaped his / wycked tyrannye
Whiche tree to this day / endurynge all the yere
By myꝛacle is vernaunte / fresshe / grene / and cleere.

Of the sayd oke tree / is a famous oppynyon
That no man may entre / the sayd concaupte
In deedly synne bounden / without contrycyon
But in clene perfyte lyfe / who soeuer he be
May entre the sayd oke / with fre lyberte
And nygh to that place / a chyꝛche is now dedycate
In the honour of god / and werburge immaculate.

Many other myꝛacles / our blessed sauoure

Shewed for this byrgyn/of his goodnes
Conforte to the people/in sekenes and langour
That to her wylle seke/in theyr dystresse
Her excellent bertue/and great holynesse
By sygnes and myracles/were dayly manifest
To many a creature/with peynes opprest.

The same wherof sprange/so fast aboute
Notyfied playne/in all this regyon
The people approched/withouten doubt
To knowe her blessed/and holy conuersacyon
And of these myracles/to haue probacyon
By the syght wherof/they myght all glozify
With ioy and gladnesse/our lord god almyghty.

There was no sekenesse/nor infyrmyte
That mankynde had/nor beracyon
But by her prayer/and humylyte
Makynge for them/to our lord intercessyon
They were restaured/to helthe and saluacyon
All by the mercyte/of this byrgyn pure
A synguler refuge/vnto every creature.

To the dombe was gyuen/speche and language
To blynde theyr syght/to dese theyr herynge
To halte and lame people/helthe in every aeger
By deuyne grace/and her ghostly luyng
The people approchynge/nygh to her in dwellynge
By callge to her/in the name of Ihesu
Had theyr petycyon/by her synguler bertu.

Some other that were/fully possessed

With wycked spyrytes/berynge the mynde
O: with sekeneſe incurable/myleſerably greued
By her dayly prayer/aboue courſe of kynde
Of theyr dyſeaſes/they ſh. lde remedy fynde
And from her departe/in ſoule with gladneſſe
Whiche to her came/ſoꝝ in payne and wretchednes.

How ſaynt Werburge gaue knowlege to her ſyſters
of her departure & how ſhe oꝝdered i vertue her ſayd mo
naſteryes afoze her dethe. Ca. xxvii.

This bleſſed abbeſſe/and vertuouſ floure
The well of clenneſe/and humplyte
Called to mynde/the wordes of our ſauour
Reherſed by Mathewe/in his euangely
The byctoꝝ all crowne/of eterne gloꝝy
As gyuen to them/that be redy eche houre
Wyſely attendynge/whan they be ſende foze.

This texte was euer/in her memoꝝyall
Pꝛompte alway redy/as a true ſpouſes
To wayte on her ſpouſe/whan he wyl call
Her lampe replete/with oyle of mekenes
Synguler gyftes/ſhe had of chꝛyſtes goodnes
Inſpyꝛed with the ſpyꝛte/of pꝛophecy
Secrete thynges to come/knowynge therby.

She knewe the ſeaſon/was haſtely compynge
Of her departure/ſro this lyfe moꝝtall
Wherfoze ſhe oꝝdꝛed/sadly euery thyng
Within her monaſteryes/and charges ſpyꝛtuall
Wylſtyng her conent/with her pꝛeſence perſonall

Gaue knowlege to them/that soone and hastily
She shulde departe/ frome this lyfe transytory.

Afoze her were called/ the systers of yche place
And were apoynted/ who shulde succede
After to be gouernour/ ruler/ and abbesse
To the pleasure of god/ and they? ghostly mede
Specpally commendynge/ vertue as we rede
What meryte they shall haue/ of god almyghty
In spy?ytuall cures/ that done well they? duty.

All other offycers/ within eche monastery
Were assygned by Werburge/ they? presydent
And vnder obedyence/ charged full depely
They? offyce to execute/ vertue to augment
For the synguler profyte/ of all the couent
She gaue to yche place/ landes and posseltyon
Suffyciently to serue/ all the congregacyon.

Whan she had ordeyned/ eche place in charyte
Dyschargynge her conseyence/ chargynge them all
To obserue relygyon/ with perfyte humylyte
After her exemple/ and doctryne pryncypall
She had perfyte knowlege/ by grace supernaturall
Her body shulde rest/ in the place of Hamburgens
After her departure/ by deuyne prouydens.

Wherfoze she commaunded/ the couent of Hambury
Wysely to attende/ with all they? dyllygence
Vpon the ende/ of her lyfe transytory
Wheresoeuer it be/ to come with benyuolence
And incontynent take/ her body with reuerence

And bypynge it shortly vnto theyr monastery
There to be tynplate/after her desyder.

As it pleaseth our lord/and celestyall sufferayne
To sende to his seruaunte/his bysytacyon
The day was apoynted/the houre incertayne
Of her departure/frome worldly veracyon
The messenger of dethe/the ende of trybulacyon
Oppressed this lady/moost worthy fame
Ryght at her monastery/nomynat Trentame.

She thanked her maker/sayenge day and nyght
Well come be the bysytacyon/of god almyghthy
She called her systers/present afoze her syght
Her entente rehersynge/to them tenderly
Desyrynge all them/to folowe dyligently
The lawes of god/with honour and reuerence
And to her counseyll/to gyue fully credence.

Sayenge dere byloued systers/in our sauour
O spyrytuall chyldren/my derlynges moost dere
Whiche haue refused/all worldly honour
To serue our lord/with herte and mynde clere
Suffer no synne/in your soule to apere
But walke it away/by better contricyon
With prayer penaunce/and true confessyon.

And trust ye well your true obedyence
your chaste luyng/and wylfull pouerte
your dayly prayers/bygyls/and abstyience
That ye haue obserued/her vnder me
Shal be recompensed/a thousande folde true

Whan ye shalbe taken / fro this lyfe transytoꝝ
your rewarde shalbe / with immoꝝtall gloꝝy.

As foꝝ my dethe / whiche appꝛoches nere
Dede nothynge / tho nature ferefull be
I knowe foꝝ certayne / who departeth well here
Is newe boꝝne agayne / to Joye and felycyte
The chꝛyſten man hath / a thꝛefolde natpꝛyete
Fꝛſt of his parentes / by cours of nature
Boꝝne to many troubles / and sorowes sure.

By the seconde byꝛthe / whiche is moꝝe excellent
At fonte of baptyſm / we haue regeneracyon
By fayth pꝛofessed / to god omnyꝓotent
And made the chyldeꝝ / of ghostly saluacyon
To auoyde by grace / all wycked temptacyon
To be inherytours / of Joy perpetuall
Folowynge the counseyll / of holy chꝛyſt withall.

The thꝛde byꝛthe / moost ferefull and to be dedde
Is whan the soule / departeth fro the body
To payne oꝝ blyſſe / and leues the coꝝps dedde
To tourne agayne to ethe / to wast and putryſe
In this thꝛde byꝛthe / by callynge aserre foꝝ mercy
Our soule shal lyue / in blyſſe / euerlastynge
Crowned with byꝛtoꝝ / foꝝ our chaste lyuynge.

The swete byꝛde closed / in a cage a longe season
Gladly entendeth / to fly at lyberte
The pꝛysoner fettered / and cast in depe dongeon
Euer supposes / to be rydde frome captiuyte
The soule of mankynde / moost dygne of dute

Naturally desyeth/proued by reason
To be deliuered/frome bodily pryson.

Of þe ghostli exortacyon saynt Werburge made to her
systers in her sekenesse/and how deuoutely she receyued
þe sacramentes of holy chyche byfore her deth. Ca. xxviii.

The day knowen/to her by reuelacyon
Of her departure/by signes euident
She sende for all the hole congregacyon
And in ptesence/of all her holy couent
She called for the blessed sacrament
To whome she sayd/with wordes expresse
With wepyng teeres/and great mekenesse:

Well come my lord/well come my kynge
Well come my sufferayne/and sauour
Well come my conforzte/and ioy euerlastyng
My trust/my treasure/my helpe and socour
Well come my maker/and my redemptour
The sone of god/moost in maieste
Withouten begynnynge/and endeles shalbe.

I beleue that thou/for all mankynde
Frome heuen descended/of thy charyte
And was incarnate/scripture dothe mynde
In the byrgynall wombe/of blessed marie
And suffered dethe/to make vs all fre
Descended to hell/toose the thyde day
Ascended to heuen/and our raunson dyd pay.

And I knowlege to the/with pure entent

On Shorptburſday/after thy paſſyon
Thy moost bleſſed body/in ſacrament
Thou gaue to vs/foz our commynon
To be our defence/and ghosly tycyon
Now preſent here/in forme of breed
To Iudge mankynde/bothe quicke and deed.

O ſufferayne ſauour/replete with grace
I the beſeche/haue pyte vpon me
And in my ſoule/make a dwellynge place
Expulce all vyce/ſynne and myſery
Defende my ſoule/frome our aduerſary
Saue and protekte me/from peynes infernall
And byngne thzugh thy mercy/to ioye perpetuall

Thus with reuerence/and great humyltye
She receyued/the bleſſed ſacrament
The ſeconde perſone/in trynyte
In perfyte fayth/hope/and loue feruent
With great contrycyon/as it was appatent
Her herte lyfte vp/towarde heuen on hye
Abdyngne the wyll/of god almyghty.

She exorted/her ſyſters euerychone
That were there preſent/in companye
Deſyrynge them all/with ſupplycacyon
To remembze her/ſayenge with humyltye
My ſyſters in god/now knowe may ye
My dayes ben ferre paſt/comynge is the houre
Wherfoze I betake you/ſyſt to our ſauour.

Prayenge you tenderly/foz the loue of me
Werburge.

k.i.

In deuyne seruyce/loke ye contynue
Obyeruyng pacyence/meekenes/and chastyte
Encresyng in relyggon/by the grace of Ihesu
Who so perceuers/in herte and mynde true
Vnder obedyence/to the extreme day
Is sure to be saued/scrpyture so doth say.

Also remembre/that all worldly royalte
Honour/ryches/pleasure/possessyon
If ye consyder/are but a vayne
Nothyng assured/to trust therupon
Wherfore dyspose you/to vertue alon
Whyle ye endure/in this lyfe mortall
Tyll that ye come/to Joy perpetuall.

Secondly she sayd/systers If you pray
Kept well the order/of perfyte charyte
Neuer declynyng fro it by no way
As ye haue taken/exemple of me
Iche loue other/and worshyp in theyr degre
So that no murmure/noz dyssty mulacyon
Befounde amonge/this holy congregacyon.

Be euer lowly/humble/and obedyent
With due reuerence/worshyp and honoure
Followe the mynde/of your presydent
Unto your heed/and ghostly gouernoure
Kepe well chastyte that precyous floure
So that no thought/of sensuallte
Corrupte your mynde/to breke byrgnyte.

Se that ye vse/dyscrete temperaunce

Absteynynge frome bayne superfluyte
Se that amonge you/be founde no barpaunce
Kepe well the degrees/of humylyte
These and many other/exemples of charyte
She taught her couent/of synguler deuocyon
How they shulde optayne/to hye perfeccyon.

Thyrdly she prayed/sayenge with mynde dyligent
O blessed sauyour/I desyre the
Saue and defende/my hole couent
And they? monasteryes/of thy great pyte
Frome peryll of perychynge/and frome enmyte
That all the subiectes/of our congregacyon,
May well obserue/they? holy professyon.

And graunt me swete lord/thy goodnes
Who so in thy name/bpon me dothe call
In langour/myserie/in peyne/or sekenes
Also women with chylde/in peynes thral
May haue remedy/and helpe specyall
And people in prysyn/halte/blynde/and lame
By me may magnify/thy glorvous name.

Then she requyred/with humylyte
The spyrytuall sufferage/of holy vnccon
Her soule to conforzte/frome all aduersyte
She toke her leue/and kyssted them ycheon
Alas what herte/myght shewe the lamentacyon
The wepyng/waylyng/and wofull heuynes
At the departure/of they? swete maystres.

Of the departure of saynt Werburge vnto heuē at the
Werburge. k.ii.

abbay of Trentam / fro this myserable lyfe / & what la-
mentacyon her systers made fo: her dethe Ca. xxix.

In all her infyrmite peyne and busynesse
She bled prayer / and medytacyon
Callynge fo: mercy / by interpo: mekenesse
With wepyng eyes / and great lamentacyon
Remembryng in herte / our lordes passyon
Commendynge her couent / vnto our sauour
To be they: defence / ayde / and protectour.

The peynes encreased / of her infyrmite
The panges doubled / her peyne to augment
Nature decayed / vnto suche debylite
That the sygnes of dethe / appered euydent
The houre approached / after all Iudgment
Wherfore all thynge / were redy preparate
As was conuenient / fo: so noble a state.

Her spouse Ihesus / haupnge pyte and cure
Vpon his spouses / in extreme dystresse
Wolde not suffer her peyne / longer endure
But sende his angels / with great lyghtnesse
To conforzte his seruaunt / in peyne and sekenesse
To dyscolue her wo / and great penalte
And bryngge bp her soule / to eterne felcypete.

There derknes was tourned / all vnto lyght
Langour and trouble / vnto prosperyte
The day was gouernour / ouer the nyght
Than that she passed / this lyfe transytoy
Bondage and thraldome / were brought to lyberte
The tyme of Joye / and euerlastyng pleasure

Was appoehynge to Werburge/ever to endure.

A multytude of angelles/lyrynge moost clere
Were redy to gyde/with humble reuerence
The soule of werburge/as truly dyd apere
And brought it to blys/unto the hye presence
Of almyghty god/moost of magnyfycence
Clerey releashed/ from peynes of purgatory
To be rewarded/with euerlastyng glory.

This blessed byrgyn/glorious and pure
In stedfast fayth/hope/love/and charyte
The thyrde day of february/ye may be sure
Expyed from this lyfe/raduce and transytory
To eterne blyss/corunate with vyctory
Chaungynge her lyfe/myserable and thral
For infynyte ioye/and glory eternall.

With moche honour/these spyrytuall mynysters
Conueyed the soule/aboue the firmament
Passynge the seven planettes/and all the sterres
Unto the presence/of god onmy potent
Synngynge full sweetely/theyr songes equyvalent
Of pleasaunt armony/of conforste and blys
Salutynge her mekely/with wordes reuerent
Veni dilecta: veni coronabitur.

The thre Ierarcheses/were redy present
With heuenly melody/to receyue this monyall
The quere of byrgyns/mette her incontynent
With great solemnyte/and processyon royall
Presentynge her soule/with myrthes angely call
To Ihesu her spouse/to whome he sayd truly
Werburge.

Well come bere doughter / to blyſſe celeftall
Intra in gaudiū: Domui tui.

In meane tyme and ſpace / this venerable body
(The ſoule departed) lay whyte / ſtreight and colde
Semyng as on ſlepe / he had ben berely
With ſwete odours fragrant / paſſyng manyfolde
All ſpyces and herbes / in erth may be tolde
The place was ſo pleaſaunt / full of deſyre
Lyke as it had ben / an erthly paradyce.

This ſoſayd venerable congregacyon
With wepyng teeres / and ſyghes lamentable
Waſhed the ſwete body / after the olde cuſtome
And dreſſed the corps / w. ch clothes honorable
Prepared all neceſſaries / pleaſaunt and commendable
To church ſhe was brought / ſolemply in ſyght
With feruent deuocyon / to be watched all nyght.

And as they watched / with due mynyſtracyon
ouer the ſayd corps / deuoutly prayenge
They made great moutnyng / and lamentacyon
Euerychone to other / ſo her departyng
Alas they all ſayd / with wofull waylyng
Our ſolace / our helthe / is clere gone away
Alas ſo ſozowe / what ſhall we now ſay.

The ſterre of our conſorte / is extyncte clere
The lanturne of our lyght / is taken vs fro
The floure of chaſtyte / is layd vpon a bere
The myrrour of mekenes / now lyeth full loo
The treaſure of relyggyon / from vs now is ago
Our ſozowe encreſed / wretchednes / and myſery

Syth thou arte departed / alas what remedy?

Our hertes ben plunged / in great wo and payne
Our myndes are medled / with heuy langour
How shulde we now rest / frome moynynge certayne
Beholdynge now deed / whylom our protectour
Swete lady thou art gone / frome vs for euer more
Our deedly sorowe / replete with bytternes
For waylynge and wepyng / can neuer ceas.

With herte mynde and hope / to the we do call
O blessed Werburge / our moost dere maystres
O sufferayne lady / and ruler of vs all
Why hase thou vs lefte / in suche heuy nesse
If thy wyl had ben / it is known expresse
Thou myght haue taryed / with vs by petycon
Alas remedylesse / is our lamentacyon

Frome vs thou arte taken / and gone is our solace
The myrrour of vertue / is deed now with the
The tryed stock of truth / and the grounde of grace
Is pyteously decayed / our hope and sufferaynte
O blessed sauyour / vpon vs haue pyte
Sende vs our conforste / by thy great myght agayne
As thou hase reyled many / from dethe to lyfe certayne.

O dredefull dethe / cruell enemy to nature
With dolefull heuynes / on the we may complayne
Takynge our heed frome vs / to our great dysconfort
Hath brought vs to thraldome / wofulnes and payne
Nother kynge ne emperour / thy sauyour may optayne
But he must departe / arrested with thy launce.

Thanke we god of all/fo: it is his pleasaunce.

How the hamburgenses toke the blessed body of Werburge from Trentam by myracle & brought it to Hamburg & of her buryall of werburge & of many folde myracles she wed fo: her merytes. ix. yere after her trallacyon.

Ca. xcx.

His gloriuous byrgyn/and moost blessed abbace
Departed from this lyfe/ caduce and transitory
(As afoze is sayd) the yere and tyme of grace
Almoost seven hundredeth/ the thyrde day of february
To celestyall blyste/ and infynyte glory
Her subiectes oppressed/ with wylfull pensyuenesse
With great trybulacyon/ care and heuynesse.

But where werburge gaue/ in commaundment
To bury her corps/ at place of Hamburg
As was the wyl/ of our lord omnypotent
Her subiectes of Trentam/ whiche had her body
Purposed her wyl/ and entent to deny
Prepared to kepe/ the corps by stronge hande
With them to remayne/ as ye shall vnderstande.

The sayd people of Trentam/ watched fall dyligent
Her corps fulfyllinge/ the obsequyes funerall
Entendynge to auoyde/ and frustrate her testament
Gat a great company/ by power Marcyall
Closed fast they: doozes/ and gates one and all
Made sure yche place/ by they: prouydens
Fo: to kepe the corps/ excludynge Chamburgens.

But as Salomon sayth/ sentençiously

There may be no counsell/pow'er ne prudence
Wysedome of man/noz naturall polycy
To derogate oz chaunge/deuyne sentence
Proved euer day/by true experyence
Tho mankynde p'pose/his mynde to fulfyll
yet god dysposeth/all thynge at his wyll.

And as they watched/the same sayd nyght
Hoost busily/to execute they wyll and entent
By deuyne prouidence/passynge mannes myght
Sodeynly on slepe/was all that couent
They? company and mynysters/that were there lent
Hauynge no power/foz to waken doubtles
God so prouided/foz they? great maystres.

Than shortly resembled/vnto that sayd place
The people of Hamburgens/a great company
With the mynysters of god/people full of grace
And anone by the wyll/of our lorde almyghty
The lockes and the barres/of that sayd monastery
Fell downe to the grounde/by power supernall
Without mannes hande/that enter they myght all.

Whiche myracle proued/the people of Hambury
Entred Trentam abbay/with mynde reuerent
And founde there on slepe/all the other company
Man/woman/and chylde/all that were present
They kneled all downe/and worshypped the sacrament
Praysynge our maker/of they? good speede
They? specyall socout/euer at they? nede.

Her blessed body/from Trentam they dyd take
Werburge.

Gladly departynge/ out of the monastery
No other man nor woman had power to make
Tyll they were passed/ all greuous Jeopardy
Magnifyenge our lord/ of his grace deuoutly
Solemply syngyng their songes celestiaall
With infinite gladnes/ and comfort spirituall.

After all this done/ this holy congregacion
With reuerence/ honour/ and solempnite
With wepyng tearis/ for pure affection
With lamentable songes/ masse and dirige
Buried the corpes/ of this blessed ladie
Right in the chauncell/ of the sayd abbay
There bodily to rest/ as her wyll was alway.

All obsequies ended/ therto belongynge
As was agreable for suche a president
The systers departed/ with clamour and mournynge
Plonged in heuynes/ and to their celles went
To wepe and wayle secretly/ their hartis to content
Cryng alas alas/ now buried haue we
The exemple of vertu/ mekenes/ and chastite.

And as the history of her lyfe/ doth expresse
In a booke nominat/ the thirde Passionary
After the buriell of this patronesse
The place was decorat/ with myzacles many
Manifest to the people/ of euery progeny
Howe god almyghty of his spectiaall grace
Hath done for his seruant/ in short tyme and space.

For many people greued with infirmite

Dolourous of hert/and interiour tribulacion
Heuynes of mynde/or other penalite
To her graue resoptyng/with feruent deuocion
Sekynge for remedy/with great contricion
Anon by her prayer/bnto our sauyour
They were released from peyne and langour.

Also by her merite suffrage and petition
Euery humble creature had helpe and succour
To distract persons/was yelded reason
Wikked spirites expulsed. were that same hour
Impotent and feble to helth she dyd restour
Halt and lame had passage / the blynde had pfect syght
The dombe had speche / the desse herynge ryght.

Women with childe/beyng in great ieopardy
Namely in trauelyng/greued with wo and payne
Whan they myght nat come/sendynge to her oratoye
Makynge true oblacion/restaured were certayne
To helth and prosperite/from wo deliuered playne
And if they obteyned a relique from the place
The mother and childe/by it founde spectall grace.

The deuout pilgrym/the perfit maryner
The true laborer/the marchant with richesse
The carefull poze man/the peynfull prisoner
Were sondry tymes deliuered from wo and distresse
Men/women/childen/sekynge with mekenes
This glorious virgyn/with humble supplicacion
Founde soone remedie/helpe and consolacion.

A litle breue reherfall of her lyfe / and howe for her
Werburge.

myracles shewed þ̄ couent of Hambury purposed to tra-
sate her body/by the helpe of Mercys. Ca. xxxi.

This glayous lady/and gemme of holynes
Of fyue myghty kynges/descended lynyally
A prynces/an enheryttyce/replete with mekenes
Refused all pleasures/pompe/and bayne gloz
Entred relyggyon/professed at Ely
A spectacle of vertue/dwellynge in that place
And a floure of chastyte/electe by/synguler grace.

Her honorable vncler/ kyng Ethelede
Consyderynge her vertue/and hye deuocyon
Made her gouernour/for ghostly helthe and mede
ouer all the monasteryes/within his regyon
for the sure encresement/of perfyte relyggyon
four of these monasteryes/we haue in memoxy
As Wedon/Trentam/Repton/and Hambury.

Whan she was ruler/and chiefe p̄sedynt
Of these sayd places/vnder god almyghty
Than vertue and goodnes/dayly byd augment
By heuenly grace/to the soule helthe of many
And by her exemple/and doctryne ghostly
Kynges/lozdes/barons/refusynge theyr royalte
Entred relyggyon/with great humylte.

Her lyfe and doctryne/agreed bothe in one
Proved in effecte/by specyall gyftes of grace
Many she conuerted/vnto contemplacyon
To praye and penaunce/whyle they had here space
Her couent and subiectes/within euery place
By her excellent vertue/and hye dyscrecyon

Were gratioſly governed / for thep? ſaluacion.

Her dwellinge was moſt at the place of Webon
Where many myracles were ſhewed openly
And at Trentam abbay / of her foundacion
From payne ſhe departed to eternall gloze
After her entent was buried at Hamburp
Of whom it may be ſayd / here lyeth nowe preſent
A princeſſe / a birgin / a nonne / and a preſident.

The deuout couent of her congregacion
Whiche hath long wayled / with ſorrowfull payne
Nowe haue great cauſe to make conſolacion
And gyue due honour to our lord and ſufferayne
Knowynge that Werburge / in bliſſe is nowe certayne
For them all dayly a true mediatrix
In the heuynly trone / afore the hie Juſtice.

Our ſauour Jeſus / graunter of all goodnes
Conſydering the mekenes / and pure birgintie
Of Werburge his ſpouſe / and proued holynes
By ſpeciall grace / preſerued her body
To his laude and honour / his name to magnifye
Both hole and ſounde / from naturall reſolucion
As her ſoule was cleere from vice and corruption.

This immaculat mayde / ſhewyng more bryght
Than radiant phebus in the triumphant trone
With the quere of birgins / prayſeth day and nyght
The bleſſed trinite with due adozacion
Of perpetuall pleaſure hauyng the fruytion
A ſingular interceſſour for her ſeruauntes all
Werburge. liſſ.

That here in erth mekely to her wyll call

And though her body do rest nowe in graue
yet notable signes contynually be done

Some warned in their slepe comfort to haue
By visityng her place/ callynge her vpon
With contrite hert makynge true oblacion.

Whiche thyng contynued by space of. ix. yere
With meruailous myracles euident and clere

The couent consyderynge suche great compayn
from diuers partes/ reioyng to theyr place

In pylgrimage to Werburge/ for helpe and remedy
Entended to translate this glorious abbasse

To exalte her body replet with great grace
To her great honour/ comfort to eche creature

Wite that suche a relique shulde lye in sepulture

To the prayes and honour of god omnipotent
And of saint Werburge laude and reuerence

The couent and the people by one assent
Desired Coelrede than kynge of mercies

For aide in this case/ helpe and diligence
(Whiche thyng graunted) the day appointed was

The clergy and the commons reioised with solace

¶ Of the solempne translation of this glorious blyssyd
saynt Werburge/ and of the great myracles done at the
sayd season by the myght of god and merite of this gra
cious lady.

Cap. xxxi.

At the day appoynted of her translation

Kyng Coelred and his counsell were redy present
With bysshops and the clergy men of deuocion
Her sisters and subiettes a religious couent
The comon people from eche place thider went
With great gladnes the hole for pleasure gossly
The seke and impotent for helth and remedy

The bysshops and clergy stode vpon one parte
Of her holy graue and her sisters echone
Syrnginge and praynginge the blessed trinite
The kyng and his counsell with great deuocion
Stode on the other parte in contemplacion
The graue was opened eleuat was the chest
Wherin her holy corps. ix. yere fully dyd rest

Whan this sayd monument discovered was
Suche a suauite and fragrant odoure
Ascended from the corps by singular grace
Passyng all wordly swetes and fauour
That all there present that day and hour
Supposed they had ben in the felicitie
Of erthely paradise without ambiguite.

And as eche man thought by naturall reason
Nothyng shulde remain of that blessed body
But the vatre boones all els to resolucion
The couerture remoued by the sayd clergy
The corps hole and sounde was funde verely
Appertnyng to them on slepe as she had ben
Nothyng depaired that ther coude be seen.

Her besture appered hole clere and white
Werburge.

l.iii.

No parte consumed / for all the longe space
Fragrant in odoure / repleit with delite
As at the fyrst season whan she buried was
But whan discouered was her swete face
Beautye appered more white than the lile
Nixt with rose colour / moost faire for to se

Her louely counteuance / so comly to beholde
And her swete fulnomy / with fautenes decorat
As freshely apparant / moost pleasant to be tolde
As at the fyrst day / whan she was turnulat
No doubt therof / for she with synne nat maculat
Asyng all her lyfe in clennes and birgynite
From bodily corruption / by grace must saued be

The clergy yet serchyng more diligently
Her pzeious body / and interiour besture
Eleuat the corps full reuerently
With moche wo:chip honour and cure
Founde nothyng perished in chap nor figure
For all the long space tyme and contynuaunce
She lay in sepulture by diuine ordynaunce

Whiche famous myracle / notified so clere
The clergy with hersysters in ioy and honour
The kyng and his counsell all therat present were
With voice melodious made a great clamour
Praylyng and magnifyng our blessed sauour
With celestiaill songes / and hymnes full of blys
Deuoutly reherlyng / with all theire deuour
Mirabilis deus in sanctis suis.

With that the comon rude people everychone
In the sayd church parde standyng without
Heryng the clergy syng with such deuotion
Towarde heuen they cried/and busely byd shout
The space of. lxx. houres/or neere there about
Worshippynge our lord/with voice shrill and loud
In hert wyll and mynde/as well as they coude.

After all this done/her blessed body
Was washed and re clothed with besture precious
By the sayd count of the place of Hambury
The byshops were reuelled in pontificalibus.
And all the clergy syngyng with voice melodious
Kneled all bowne and gaue due reuerence
Honour and worship to her corporall presence.

Thus they receyued with perfit humilite
This sacrat relique hole and substanciall
And layd it in a chyrne with great solempnite
Enownd with riches sumptuous and rolall
Prepared by the kyng/and ordeyned inspeciall
Entendyng that this relique and gostly treasure
Perpetually with them shulde remayne and endure

People oppressed with greuous infirmite
Distract persons/halt blynde and lame
Resortynge to her chyrne with humilite
Shortly were cured by callynge of her name
Impotent creatures (the legende sayth the same)
Touchyng her tumber were cured from payne
Whiche tumber remayneth at Hambury certayne

After she was translate / knowne it is well
The clergy to procession went after to mas
Honouring and prayeing the kyng of Israel
And blessed Werburge with moche solace
Whan diuine seruice dyde ended was
The bishops gaue theyr holy benedictions
The people departed glad to their mansionis

This holy sayd fest of her translation
Was ordeyned and celebrate with solemnite
As sayeth Ramulphus in his polycronicon
About the yere of grace. vii. hundreth and. xii. fothe
The. xi. kalendas of the moneth Julii
Regnyng in mercelande the said kyng Corde
Than byshop of Lichfeld was Heddas mercede

Howe the body of saynt Werburge continued hole
and substanciall at Hamburg after the translation by the
space of two hundreth yeres / till the danes were comen
to this lande / or it selle and was resolued into powder
The. xxxiii. Chapitre.

This rutilant gemme and specious floure
Hole and substanciall remayned at Hamburg
Two hundreth yeres in beaute and colour
By singular grace / and angelicall custodie
Till the danes were comen of malice and misery
Of ire and myschief / as we vnderstande
We meane the comyng of pagans to this lande
Whiche danes by sufferaunce and dispensacion

Of almyghty god/for synne and iniquite
Punished unpiteously all this region
With a wofull plague of grent cradels
The sharpe swordes of deeth haueinge no pite
Spared no creature/peere nor religious
Long tyme during in their malice odious



Than this bitall gleebe by diuine ordinance
Voluntary permitted naturall resolution
Lest the cruell gentils/and wicked myscreaunges
With pollute handes full of corruption
Shulde touche her body/by indignation
Whiche pagans were enemyes to our lord Iesu
Rebels to holy churche blisshfull and batene

Howe be it the power of our swete sauiour
Myght haue continued the body of his sruant
All that longe season in worship and honour
As he preferred of his grace abundant
Many sayntes of this realme hole fresh and bettred
With hundreth yeres ago/ to this present day
And like so to endure hole and cleere alway.

Sothely to comfort our lord omnipotent
Glorious in his sayntes/scripture both specific
Of his diuine prouidence/pleasure and intent
Some haue resolued/for the greater glorie
Of their resurrection for the tyme truly
Some other to continue without corruption
To the true example of his promission

Many holy martyrs/for Christ haue byn slayne

The hie prestis of god murdered cruelly
Some with wylde bestes deuoured in certayne
Some cast in fiers on cooles to broyle and fry
Upon many other bydes fedynge openly
Of whom the prophet clerely doth reherce
The more payne here and now the more glory doubtles.

The glorious martyr Stephan (as is red)
In this present lyfe dyd myracles many
Neuertherles he raised no people that were deed
But after the resolynge of his blessed body
He raised deed men to lyfe agayne truly
That the great power of lyfe myght sprynge
From iniurie of deeth by our heuen kynge.

Great was the respect of diuine grace
In the body of Werburge without resolucion
Shewed by her myracles for mannes helth and solace
But great was the hope of the eterne reuouacion
In her body resolved to naturall consumption
Whiche for her merites to this present day
Helpeth all her seruantes that to her wyl praye

Therefore worshippe me with singular deuotion
The holy lyuynge of this birgyn gracious
For why all the halowynge of her conuersacion
Belongeth to the honour of our lord Iesus
Whiche of his grace hath made her so glorious
And graunteth his mercy and of synne remission
To all them for whom she maketh intercession.

Blessed pure birgin moines and abbasse

O venerable werburge/mekely we the pray
Make thou supplicacon/to the graunter of grace
After this lyfe present/that all we may
Come to heuen blyste/whiche lasteth for ay
There to beholde/the glourous trynpte
To whom be laude/worshyp/honour & endeles glorie.

*In the margin
of the book
was*

The table of the seconde boke of *þ* glo-
ryous vyrgyn saynt Werburge.



Of the comynge to this lande of paganes/and
of the trouble of this lande/and how *þ* kynge
of Mercens for drede departed out of this
lande/and how longe saynt Werburge con-
tynued incorrupte and hole at the abbay of
Hambury.

Ca. i.

How the people of Hambury brought the shryne to
Chester/and of the solempne receyvinge of it/by all the
inhabytauntes of the countre.

Ca. ii.

A lytell descripcyon of the fundacyon of Chester/and
of *þ* abbay churche withyn the sayd cytee/where the holy
shryne remayneth.

Ca. lii.

A breue reherfall / of the fyrst fundacyon of the myn-
ster of Chester/ & of the instytucion of secular chanons/
in the tyme of kynge Edward the senyoz.

Ca. liii.

Of the notable myracle of saynt Werburge in *þ* tyme
of chanons/and fyrst how she saued Chester from the de-
struccyon of Walthe men.

Ca. v.

Howe saynt Werburge cured and healed a woman
thre tymes whiche was halt and lame to helthe and pros-
perite agayne. Cap. vi.

Howe saynt Werburge saued and defended Chester
from innumerable barbarik nations purposynge to de-
stroye and spoyle the same cite vtterly. Cap. vii.

Howe saynt Werburge by her merite sent scrypte to a
barayne Woman by synguler praper made vnto her.
Cap. viii.

Howe a woman with childe by payne brought out of
her mynde & reason by saynt Werburge was restaured
to prosperite and helthe agayne. Cap. ix.

Of a nother woman vnlaufully wurkyng was made
blinde and soze punyshed and by saint Werburge was
restored to syght agayne. Cap. x.

Howe saint Werburge restored to helth & prosperite.
vi. lame & halt persons by singular grace. Ca. xi.

Of a yonge man vnryghtfully hanged was thys de-
liuered from deth by saynt Werburge to helth and pros-
perite. Cap. xii.

Howe at the maner of vnto saynt Werburge refra-
ined wilde horses from destruction of her cornes. Ca. xiii.

Of a chano of Chester haupng his leg broke was re-
stored to helth by saint Werburge his prones. Ca. xiiii.

Abrieue reherfall of cronicle of certayne kyngis and
howe kyng Edgar came to Chester, also howe erle Le-
of ice repared diuers churches. Ca. xv.

Of the comyng of Wilyam conquerour to this lande
howe Lupe was fonder of Chester monastery. ca. xvi.

Howe saint Werburge taught her monke to kepe pa-
cience for the greater merite and gloze to come. ca. xvii.

Howe sandes rose bp within the salt see ayenst Hil-
burgh de by saint Werburge at the petition of William
constable of Cheshire. Ca. xviii.

Howe Matild countesse of Cheshire counsellunge her
husband agaynst the monasterie was drowned at Bart-
flowe with many other mo. Cap. xix.

Howe a great fire like to destroye all Cheshire by my-
racle ceased whan the holy shryne was bozne about the
to wne by the monkes. Ca. xx.

Abrieue reherfall of the myzacles of saynt Werburge
after her translacon to Cheshire. Ca. xxi.

A charitable mocis/counsel/a desire to al thinhabitants
win the cosette palatin of Chesh for y monastort. ca. xxii.

A litle orison of prayer to y blessed btyrn saint Wer-
burge by the translatour of this worke. Ca. xxiii.

A short conclusion of this litle worke to the reders by
the translatour. Ca. xxiiii.

The prologe of the translatour of this lytell
treatyse in the seconde boke.

Now whan we consyder/with mynde dyligent
The merueylous maners/ & synguler conbycion
Of the comyn people/ symple and neclygent
Whiche without lytterature/ and good informacyon
Ben lyke to brute beestes/ as in comparyson
Rude/ wyld/ and boystous/ by a prouerbe certan
Good maners and conynge/ maken a man.

How all thyng is wryten in holy scripture
Saynt Paule sayth/ shewynge to the Romans
How all thyng is wryten/ in holy scripture
Is wryten for our doctryne/ and ghostly ordynans
For our great conforste/ and endles pleasure
All thyng is knowne playnly/ by lytterature
Wherall vertues/ be noted by it full playne
Frome byce and neclygence/ to abstayne certayne.

What were mankynde/ without lytterature
Full lytell worthy/ blynded by ignorance
The way to heuen/ it declareth ryght sure
Thugh perfyte lernynge/ and good perseueraunce
By it we may be taught/ for to do penaunce
Whan we transgresse/ our lordes commaundment
It is a swete corbyll/ for mannes entent.

How shulde the seven/ sciences lyberall
Haue ben preserued/ vnto this day
The wysdome/ of the phylosophers all
But alone by lernynge/ it is no nay
The notable actes/ of our fathers I say

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(yf litterature were nat) myght nat now be tolde
For auncient histories and cronycles olde

The lawe of civill and of holy canon
By study be preferred with moche honour
To execute iustice/ and for due reformation
The most blessed doctrine of our saviour
The actis of the apostoles/ with the doctours four
Be preserved by wytyng/ and put in memorie
With the lyues of saintes many a noble storie

Of whiche histories we purpose speciall
To speke of saint Werburge/ vnder your protection
Declar yng the ende of her lyfe historiall
As we haue begon/ and made playne mencion
In the fyrst volume by breue compilacion
There playnly descriuyng her liniall discens
Of. lxxx. myghty kyngdomes by true experience


Also we haue shewed in the sayd littell boke
Her goodly maners/ and vertuous disposition
Of her yonge age/ who so lyst theron to loke
And howe her bzytherne suffred martyrdome
Of her fathers realme a litell descripcion
Howe she was professed in the place of Elp
Of her conuersacion within the sayd monastery

After for her vertue/ howe she was made abbasse
Of diuers monasteries flouryng in vertue
And of the great miracles whiche there done was
For her great charite/ by the grace of Iesu
Howe diuers of her kyngdome vnder clerely excheue
Werburge.

All worldly pleasures and honours transitory
Professynge obedience at the place of Cley

Also we haue shewed vnder your licence
Of her departure from this lyfe mortall
And of her sepulture at the place of Hamburgence
The manyfolde myracles shewed by grace supernall
The wofull lamentacion of her systers all
And howe after. it. yere of her translacon
By diuine ordinaunce miracles were done

We humble require you of your charite
To this seconde abstract to graunt pardon
Consydeyrnge we omptte whilom the hystorie
And speke of cronicles/makynge a digression
It is of no ignorance/noz presumption
But to enlarge the mater and sentence
To gladd the auditours/and moue their diligence



In our seconde boke expresse now we wyl we
Vnder your licence and speciall tuicion
Of this blessed birgin/flourynge in chastite
Why and wherfoze she came to Chestre to wne
Principally by miracle/and diuine prouision
And howe for synne/bice/and wykednes
Danes oppressed this lande with wretchednes

And howe she was receyued at Chestre citie
Of the fyrst foundation of towne and the place
Of the great myracles there shewed openlie
To chanons and monkes/by singular grace
Vnto every creature in extreme case

Howe Werburge deliuered the towne from enmyte
From dreadfull fire/ and plages of miserie

Also encronicled foloweth here expresse
A breue compilacion of kynge Edwardes senour
Of kynge Ethelstan/ the great worthynes
Of humble kynge Egar regnyng as emperour
Of his comyng to Chestre/ of his great honour
And howe Erle Leofrice repared of his charite
The mynstre of Werburge grynng therto liberte

Of the seconde foundation of the sayd monastery
From secular chanons to monkes religious
Soone after the conquest sayth the hystorie
By the erle of Chestre nominat Hug. Lupus
With counsell and helpe of blessed Anselmus
And of the great compas of the sayd abbay
Enuired with walles myghty to assaye

Howe Ric erle of Chestre by myracle ryght
Was pserued from daunger of wallhomen
And howe he was drowned about mydnyght
Purposyng to distrope the monastery certen
Celestiall signes were shewed to men and women
To childezen and innocentes by singular grace
Of blessed Werburge patronesse of the place

These miracles specified/ and many other mo
This virgin shewed within Chestre cite
Whiche at this tyme we let ouer go
Lest to the reders tedious it shulde be
Almyghty god both one two and thye

Werburge

m. st.

Sende vs of theyr grace to make a good ende
Helpe lady Werburge this warke to amende

Of the comyng of cruell pagans to this lande / and
howe saint Werburge longe lpenge hole and incorrupt
at Hambury. than was resolved to powder. And howe
the kynge of merciens was chaled from his lade. Ca. i.

Afore the comyng of danes to this lande
Merueilous signes were shewed in syght
To conuert the people (as we vnderstande)
Sterres in the heuen shynnyng full byght
Dpuerly mounge apperyng day and nyght
Rennynge in the ayre dyedfull to beholde
By longe continuance sayth the story olde

Flamynge fire / dragons in the ayre fleyng
Thondryng / and lapyth / erth quake moost terrible
With many other signes / as cometis blasynge
Were seen in the ayre / to nature horrible
Upon clothynge of people bloody dropes odible
Euydently appered : the pere of grace
bi. hundreth. lxxxvi in many a place

By whiche sayd signes wonderfull to se
Two plages of pestilence folowed incontinent
The first was great derthes hungre and pouerte
The seconde was the greuous and soze punysshement
Of the cruell danes cursed and fraudulent
Whiche trouble began the. iiii. pere of Bricticus
Kynge of westsaxon / sayth maister Alfridus.

The thyrde yere folowynge these signes in certen
Danes and Norwales enterprised this lande
In the north partie. an hoost of armed men
Whiche cruelly spoiled and distroied holy Ilande
With Tynmouth abbay/and all that myght be fonde
Drowned and slewe the people euerychone
Brenned churches/townes/spared no religion

In short tyme after the pzenominate pagans
At campsmouth reentred this realme agayne
Destroyed many cites by their myghty ordynaunce
Oppressed London/Canturbury by power certayne
The kynge of Merciens to escape was fayne
Kynge Adoulsus made the Danes a batell
To whiche kynge by grace the victorie befell

pf ye wyl consydre the cause wherfoze and why
Our lord suffred pagans to punyssh this region
The treuth was this:foz synne specially
Foz in the pzinatiue church/with great perfection
Kyniges/quienes/dukes entred religion
Professed obedient chaste without ppopurte
Vertue to encrease true loue and charite

That tyme was iustice ministred with mercy
True loue and amite founde in euery place
Dissemblacion / pryde and fals enuye
Durst nat appere in halle no: in palace
Extorcion pollynge opteyned no grace
The commaundementes of god were obserued a ryght
Charite was feruent/encreasynge day and nyght
Werburge. m.iii.

By proces of tyme / as sayth myn auctour
Through great possession / power / and liberte
Vertue decreased in holy churche day and houre
Holy religion decayed pittiousle
Charite was colde / iustice and equite
Exorcion discepte were bled euery day
Couetise / pryde / lechery were ryued alway

Therefore our lord of his great ryghtwisnes
Suffred cruell people to entre this region
A scourge to correct synne and wykednes
Like a swarme of bees from diuers nacion
Whiche had no pite mercy nor compassion
Danes Gotes Norwayes and scottes also
Pictes and the wandeles with many other mo

These foresayd fearfull and cruell nations
Most cruell pagans byd great persecucion
From the begynnyng of Adelwylf kyng of westsaxons
Till the comynge of normans vnto this region
The space enduryng by full computacion
Two hundreth yeres complet. xxx. also
With the swerde of vengeance fire and moche wo

The yere of our lord. D. CCC. fyfty and one
At Camysmouth arryued a great hoost of pagans
With. iiii. hundreth ships and. l. men of armes echone
Whiche destroyed Douer / and put the land to greuans
Agayne. Bernulphus the kyng of Mercians
The paynyms preuayled / and caused his hoost to fle
Whiche fortune enforced them moze boldet to be

But the yere of grace. D. CCC. sixe and sixtie
The greattest noumbre of the pagans all
viii. kynges entred this realme by victorie
Norwales/ghotes/ Wandels/ danes in especiall
With many other nacions within in generall
Kyng Hingwar and Hubba than came to this lande
Whiche slewe saint Edmunde kyng of Estenglande

The cruell paynymys and tyrauntes moost furious
Repleit with malice/pride/and enuye
Seruauntes to satan and ministres malicious
Purposed to desolate holy churche wyckedly
Brenned monasteries and spoiled vtterly
Many churches chapels of a mortall hate
Slewe religious men and nonnes byd violate

The people were punysshed in euery place
To olde sicke and impotent they shewed no mercy
Yonge soukyng children coude fynde no grace
Wyddowes and wyues were put to bilany
Maydens were corrupt/and slayne chamfully
So all this realme endured confusion
But to greuous peyne/deth/and affliction

After these infidels had ben at London
And there accomplished they? cruell entent
They soone proceded towarde Lincolsi region
From thens directly with hasty iugement
To the realme of Merciens noble and auncient
Right vnto Repton where the kyng lay
Robbyng and spollynge all in they? way

This kyng of Mercelande called Burdredus
Regnyng. xxi. yere vpon the merclens
Was clerely expulled by the pagans furious
And went vnto Rome with pure conscience
Where he is buried by diuine prouidence
Whiche kyng was colyn by discent linall
To blessed Werburge so glorious and pudicall

This gracious birgin and pzelect abbasse
Buried at Hambury (as is sayd before)
Continued incorrupt and hole in that place
In vesture and body. ii. hundzeth yere and more
But whan the Danes came With suche rigour
To Repton abbay / than she was resolued
And of deuotion full richely shryned

Howe the people of Hambury brought the shryne to
Chestre / and of the solemne receyuyng of it by all the in
habitauntes of Cheshyre. Cap. ii.

In meane tyme the Danes pitously destroyed
The monasteries of Werburge / Trenta & Wedo
As they many other places had euill oppressed
In the north and east part of this region
The kyngdome of Kent suffred lyke punicion
The Ile of Wyght endured moche turment
So dyd the Westmarches / for punysshment

The people of Hambury Wylsely consydering
The comynge of Danes vnto Repton
And of the departure of Burdred the kyng
Howe all Englande was in great affliction

And howe they were next to endure puniſhon
Whiche forſayd Repton was diſtaunt from Hamburp
The ſpace of .v. mile ſayth the hiſtoꝝ

The Hamburgenſ With all the comons and clergp
Dredynge full ſore the pagans flagellacions
Of their lyues deſperate / but for the ſhrynes ſpecially
To our bleſſed ſautour made dayly inuocacions
With vigils prayes and feruent meditations
To preſerue the countrey / the relique / the ſhryne
From daunger of enmite and miſerable tynne

As they continued in cotidian prayer
The beſt remedie ſekyng for to fynde
To auoide betacion and all greuouſ daunger
Of theyꝝ great ennemies curſed and brynnde
The holy gooſt inſpired theyꝝ mynde
To take the ſhryne with great humilite
And brynge it to Cheſtre from perill and enmyte

They toke this tiall relique of reuerence
With great mekenes deuocion and feruour
Through the grace of god theyꝝ helpe and defence
Came to warde Cheſter with diligence and honours
A place preordinat by our ſautour
Where her body ſhulde reſt and worſhipped be
Magnified with miracles next our ladie

¶ Whan the clergie of Cheſtre and the citezens
Herde tell of the compynge of this noble abbaffe
They made preparacion and great diligence
In theyꝝ beſt maner worſhip and ſolace
Werburge.

To mete this relique of singular grace
The great estates/and rulers of the countrey
Were redy to honour saint Werburge that day

First was ordeyned a solemne procession
With crosses/and baners/and surges cleere lyght
The belles were tolled for ioye and deuotion
The ministres of god in coopes redy dight
With censours of siluer / to encense her body right
All prestis and clerkes redy to say and synge
Proceeded in ordre/this holy virgin praysynge

Next to the clergie approached in degree
The lordes of the shyre knyghtes barons all
With feruent deuotion/praysynge the trinite
Whiche sent to them suche comfort spirituall
The citezens ensued with gladnes cordiall
With bokes and beades/magnifieng our maker
For this great treasure to kepe them from daunger

Venerable virgins next sette in ordre cleere
With lilies in theyr handes coronate with chastite
Good widowes and wyues appoynted well were
Gyvinge true thanks vnto this virgin fre
Per them assemble all the commonte
In all goodly maner dyuisid by discrecion
Praysynge saynt Werburge with humiliacion

Whan they approached to her hie presence
And comon were afore this relique most tall
They kneled all downe with mycle reuerence
Salutynge the shryne with honour victoriall

Magnifying With melodye and tunys musicall
This glorious virgin/nothyng done amis
Sprynge Te Deum to the kpng of blyſſe

The lordes/the citezins/and all the commons
Hekely submytted them ſelfe to the ſhyne
With manyfolde prayſes and humble ſupplications
With interiour loue/and moꝛall diſcipline
Truynge all in her to ſaue them from ruyne
From greuous daunger/and cruell enmite
By her enterceſſion vnto the trinite

They gaue due thanks vnto this abbaſſe
Deuoutly ſayenge knelyng vpon kne
Welcome ſwete lady replet with grace
The floure of mekenes / and of chaſtite
The cryſtall of clenness and virginite
Welcome thou art to vs euerychone
A ſpeciall comfort for vs to truſt vpon

Welcome ſwete princeſſe / kynges doughter dere
Welcome faire creature/and roſe of merccies
The diamonde of dignite/and gême ſhenyng clere
Virgin and moynall of mycle excellence
Welcome holy abbaſſe of hie preeminence
The rutilant ſaphire of ſyncerite
Welcome ſwete patronneſſe to Cheſtre cite

Thou art our refuge/and ſingular ſuccour
Oyr ſure tuicton next to the trinite
Oyr ſpeciall defence at euery houre
To releue thy ſeruauntes in all neceſſite

Werburge

n. 114.

Thou art our solace and helpe in eche degre
Our ioye/trust/and comfort/and goostly treasure
Welcome to this towne for ever to endure

¶ Agaynst her compynge into Chestre cite
The stretes were strawed with flours fragrant
The mancions and halles edified rialle
Were hanged with arras pprecious and pleasaunt
Torches were caried on eche syde flagrant
Also ouer the shypne was prepared a canopy
Of cloth of golde and tissewe riche and costly

Thus with great worship decour and dignite
Of all the clergie lordis and citezens
She was receyued with great humilite
Into the cite with humble reuerence
The clergie syngyng with mycle diligence
The comons prayeng with loue feruent
Folowyng this relique after their entent

In procession they passed all in to the towne
With ioye and great gladnes ye may be sure
In ordre togyther in charite and deuocion
Prayng our sauour and this virgin pure
They brought full solemple with goostly peasure
This riall relique to the moost noble place
Within all the cite as our lordes wyll was

This seconde translaton of this virgin bright
From Hambury abbay vnto Chestre cite
Was celebrate with ioye and gladnes full right
The pere of our saueour in his humanite

biit. hundzeth complet. v. and seuentie
Blured reigned than kyng of this region
Victorious and liberall / coronate at London

This kyng deuyled in. liii. partes his richesse
One parte to the poore the seconde to religion
The thyrde part to scholers / the fourth to bld churches
And of a day naturall / he made triu diuision
biit. houres to rebe and praye with feruent deuotion
biit. houres occupied with busynesse naturall
And other. biit. houres to rule his realme riill

Henric. ii.º. v.

Nobilitas innata tibi probitas honorem
Armipotens Alured debet / probitasq; laborem:
Perpetuumq; labor nomen: cui mixta dolori
Gaudia semper erant: spes semper mixta timori.
Si modo victus erat / ad crastina bella parabat
Si modo victor erat / ad crastina bella pauebat.
Jam post transactos regni viteq; labores /
Christe et sit vera quies / sceptrumq; perenne.

A litel descripcion of the foundacion of Chestre / and
of the abbay churche within the sayd cite / Where þ holý
shryne by grace remayneth. Cap. iiii.

Two cites of legions in cronicles we fynde
One in south Wales / in the tyme of Claudius
Called Caerulka / by britons had in mynde
Orels Caerleon / buylded by kyng Belinus
Where somtyme was a legion of knyghtes chivalrous
This cite of legions was whilom the byshops se
Unto all south Wales / nominat Wenedocie
Werburge. n. iiii.

A nother cite of legions we may fynde also
In the west part of Englande/by the water of Dee
Called Caerlleon of britons longe ago
After named Chestre by great auctorite
Julius the emperour sende to this sayd cite
A legion of knyghtes/for to subdue Irelande
Like wyle dyd Claudius (as we vnderstande)

The founder of Chestre/as sayth Pollicronicon
Was Leon Bauer/a myghty stronge gyant
Whiche buylde caues and dongions many one
No goodly buyldyng/proppe ne pleasaunt
But the kynge Leil a briton sure and ballaunt
Was founder of Chestre by pleasaunt buyldyng
And of Caerleil also/named by the kynge

Ranulphus in his cronicle yet doth expresse
The cite of Chestre edified for to be
By the noble romans prudence and richesse
Whan a legion of knyghtes was sende to the cite
Rather than by the wysdome of Britons or policie
Obiectyng clere agaynst the britons fundacion
Whiche auctour resteth in his owne opinton.

¶^o gratie. lrb.

Kyng Marius a byton regnyng in prosperite
In the westpartie of this noble region
Ampliat and walled strongly Chestre cite
And myghtly fortified the sayd fundacion
Thus eche auctour holdeth a singular opinion
This Marius clewe Reodric kyng of pictis lande
Callyng the place of his name Westmarlande

This cite of legions so called by the Romans
Nowe is nominat in latine of his propre
Cestria quasi castris / of honour and pleasure
Proved by the buydyng of olde antiquite
In cellers and lowe boules / and halles of realte
Like a comly castell / myghty stronge and sure
Eche house like a toure somtyme of great pleasure

Unto the sayd Chestre all north wales subject were
For refozmacion Justice and iugement
They? byshops see also it was many a yere
Enduryng the gouernaunce of brutes auncient
To saxons and britons a place indifferent
The inhabitauntes of it manfull and liberall
Constant sad and vertuous / and gentyll continuall

Of frutes and cornes there is great habundaunce
Wooddes / parkes / fozettes / and beestis of benare
Pastures / feeddes / comons / the cite to auauunce
Waters / pooles / pondes / of fysh the great plente
Most swete hollome ayre by the water of Dee
There is great marchandise / shypps / and wyne strang
With all thyng of pleasure the citezens amonge

The yere of our lord a hundreth sire and fyfty
Reigned vpon this lande a briton kyng Lucius
Whiche with great desire required instantly
His realme to be baptized of pope Glentherius
Whose charitable motion was harde full gratius
The pope enioyed / graunted his petition
And sende .ii. doctours to conuerte this region
Werburge. n. lili.

The doctours by prechyng and singular grace
In short tyme converted the greater Britayne
The people confessed their synne and trespass
Baptized all were forguenes dyd attayne
Idolatrie celled through out this lande certayne
With grace circumfulced and lychtyned was England
By faith to god professed was all Wales and Scotland

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King Lucius ordeyned by the doctours motion
xxviii. bishops in this realme for to be
And. iii. archebishops for gostly exhortacion
To reduce the people to vertue and humilite
At London was set the chief archebishops se
The seconde in south Wales at cite of legions
The thyrde was at pake all subject to the britons

London
Kings letters
continues

Churches were edified in many a place
Here in the more Britayne with diligent labour
Christis faith increased by speciall grace
Faithfull religion belated every hour
Divine service was songon & sayd with great honour
True faith and deuotion were dayly increasynge
Namely in Chestre by grace continuall abidynge

Certainly such baptism came to Chestre cite
Soone after Lucius and afore kynge Arthur
By the grace of god and their humilite
The faith of holy churche dyd ever there endure
Without reclusioun and infection late
Wherefore it is worthy a singular commendacion
Aboue all the cities and townes of this region

Ann. 517

The perfect begynnyng and fyrst foundation
Of the monasterie within the sayd cite
Was at the same tyme by famous opinion
That baptym began within this countre
The great lordes of Chestre of landes and auncettes
First edified the church for comfort spirituall
In honour of the apostles Peter and Paule

Whiche church was principall to all the cite
And the mowther church called withouten doubt
It was their buriall by great auctorite
To all this sayd cite and. lxxi. myle without
The cemiterie was large to compase it about
But what by sufferaunce and proceste of tyme
Many olde customes ben brought now to tyme

In whiche mother church of Peter and Paule
All holt sacramentes ministred dayly were
With great encrease of vertues all
Continuall endurynge more than. CCC. yere
In the britons tyme of blodd noble and cleve
Afore the comynge of Saxons to this lande
Whiche with apostasie enserfed all Englande

So after that the Angles Jutes and Saxons
By fortune of batell power and policie
Had clerely subdued all the olde britons
And them expelled to wales and wyld countres
The faith of holt church even spred in the cite
In the sayd tyme the counse by singular grace shone
Like as the faith of Peter neuer failed at Rome

What tyme saint Austine the doctour of Englande
Had baptized Ethelbrut kyng of Kent
And by relacion dyd fully vnderstande
That the faith of Christ most digne and excellent
In the cite of legions was truly remanent
In the churche of the apostoles Peter and Paule
He magnified our lord with thanke speciall

That season there was a noble monasterie
xii. myles from Chestre nominate Bangour
Where religious monkes lyued bettuouslye
Almost. iiii. thousande/obedient every hour
Without possessions/lyving by theyr labour
Unto whiche place he sende for helpe at nede
To conuert the saxons (sayth venerable Bede)

Saint Austine approached the cite of legions
Where the sayd couent afore hym were present
Whom he requited to preche to the saxons
The faith of holy churche and baptysm diligent
To whose humble prayer/they were disobedient
Oseruyng no charite/pet for theyr great pride
Many of them were slayne by kyng Ethelfride

That season the britons remayned vnder licence
Of Angles and saxons within the sayd cite
Tyll the dayes of Offa kyng of mercciens
Regnyng in the west marche with great victorie
Whiche kyng expelled by power and chualtie
All brutis and walschemen clere out of his londe
In pepre of punysshement none there to be fonde

Whan the said church haupnge great liberte
Dayly augmented in vertue and holynes
Prestis and clerkes prayled the holy trinite
And the sayd apostoles with great mekenes
The cite encreased in worshipp and ryches
Churches were edified with feruent deuotion
In sondrie places within the sayd towne

This noble kyng Offa agaynst the pagans
Of. xlii. batels had euer the victorie
Confederate was with great Charles kyng of France
And edified saint Albans monasterye
Of Englands first toke the hole monarchie
Gaue Peter pens vnto the court of Rome
Translate to Lichfeld the se of Canturbury
xxxix. yere reigned fully in this region.

A brefe reherfall of the first foundation of the mynster
of Chestre/and of the institution of secular chanyons in
the tyme of kyng Edward the first. Cap. iiii.

The yere of grace. D. CCC. lxxviii. and spys
Kyng Alured reigned vpon this region
The relique the shryne full memoziatpue
Was brought to Chestre for our consolacion
Reuerently receyued set with deuotion
In the mowther church of saint Peter and Paul
(As afore is sayd) a place moost principall

In whiche holy place vnto this present day
She bodily resteth by dyligence
And so by his grace shall continue alway
In honoure worshipp and mynde reuerence

A deuout oratoye of bertue and excellence
Prepared by our lord / where speciall remedy
Is agayne all greuous in soule and in body

The primatye gyftes gyuen to the place
Immediately were after her comynge
Of deuout people replet with grace
In the dayes of the forsayd Alured kyng
Of landes and libertes they made moche offerynge
To god and saint Werburge / after theyr possession
Tristynge to her prayer and sure protection

The people with deuocion and mynde feruent
Gave diuers enornentes vnto this place
Some gaue a coope / and some a bestement
Some other a chalice / and some a corporace
Many albes and other clothes offred ther was
Some crosses of golde / some booke / some belles
The poore folke gaue surges / torches / and towelles

The citezens offered to the sayd birgine
For the great miracles amonge them wrought
Many riall gyftes of Jewels to the shrine
Thankynge our lord that hath vs all bought
And blessed Werburge in worde dede and thought
Women and children she mynded full gracious
As testifieth the archebishopp Antoninus

Diuine seruice was obserued deuoutly
Euery day encreasynge with feruent adoration
As the feest required / and the solempnite
To the honour of our lord and his glorification

Prestis and clerkes with pure meditacion
Oblerynge their dutie gaue vertuous exampls
Of great perfection to the comon people

After kyng Alured regned his son
Edward senior by liniall discent
Crowned the pere of grace, ix. hund:eth and one
With wordly gloze and great preeminence
Buylded castels to wnes of myghty defence,
Subdued the danes. vii. tymes in batell
Encreased his realme manfully and well

That tyme the realme of mercciens was translate
By the kyng/ and gyuen to duke Ethelrede
A noble man of auncetre/politicke and fortunate
Whiche married his syster lady Elfebe
Doughter to the forsaide valiant kyng Alured
The sayd gentilman was wyse and vertuous
Sad and discrete patient and famous

This lady Elfebe duchesse of mercciens
Had speciall loue and singular affection
To blessed Werburge and true confidence
Wherfore she mynded with great dilectacion
To edifie a mynstre a place of deuocion
To this holy virgin for profite of her soule
Enlargynge the church of Peter and of Paule

She moued her husbnde with great mekenes
To supplie the same dede of his charite
And diuers other nobles of theyr goodnes
For aide in that cause after their degree

Joyfull was the Duke of the motion gosse
Glad were the nobles within all the shire =
To founde a mynstre after her desire

Afoze the holy roode in a table witten is —
At saint Johans churche without the sayd cite
Howe that pzince Edmund the thyzde son ewis
Of Edward senioz true foundour shulde be
To whom lady Elfede was aunt by auncetre —
So becom twayne was founded in hoxt space
An holy mynstre of vertue full and grace

They sende for masons bpon every syde
Counnyng in geometrie the foundation to take
For a large mynstre longe hie and wyde
Substancially wrought the best that they can make
To the honour of god / for saynt Werburge sake
At the est ende taken theyz sure foundation
Of the apostoles churche / ioynnyng both as one

Whan it was edified and curiously wrought
And all thyng ended in goodly propozcion
Than riche enozmentes were offred and brought
Of the said nobles with great deuocion
Tempozall landes / rentes / possession
Were gyuen for euer to mayntayne the place
Of blessed Werburge by singular grace

Spirituall ministres were elect also
Secular chanons of great humilite
To synge and psalmodise our sauiour bnto
Within the sayd mynstre haunyng a perpetuite

Prebendes were assigned to that fraternite
With townes/ boroughes/ and freedoms manifest
Continually encreasynge vnto the conquest

And the olde church of Peter and of Paul
By a generall counsell of the spiritualte
With helpe of the Duke moost principall
Was translate to the myddes of the sayd cite
Where a parcell the church was edified true
In honour of the aforesayd apostoles twayne
Whiche shall for ever by grace diuine remaine

Also we may note holdyng none opinion
This lady Elfe of her charite
Of the sayd mother church translate the patron
Caused the sayd oratorie reconciled to be
In the honour of the most blessed trinite
And of saynt Oswalde martyr and kyng
For the loue she had to hym continuynge

The yere of our lord. ix. hundreth and. viii.
This noble duchesse with mycle royalte
Reedified Chestre/ and fortified it full ryght
Church/ house/ and wall decayed piteously
Thus brought vnto repaire was Chestre cite
First by Ethelric kyng of Northumberlande
And by Danes/ norwaies beyng all Englande

Also she enlarged this sayd olde cite
With newe myghty walles stronge all about
Almost by proportion double in quantite
To the further byldynge brought without dout

She compassed in the castell enemies to hold out
Within the sayd Walles to defende the towne
Agaynst Danes and walschemē to dꝛyue them all downe

After the deth of her husband Ethelrede
She ruled the realme of mercelande manfully
Buylded churches/and townes repared in dede
As Stafoꝝd/ Warwike/ Thomwot/ and Shitrisbury
Of newe she edified Runcoꝝn and Edisbury
The body of saynt Oswald also she translate
From Bardeney to Gloucetur there to be tumulate

Where she edified a noble monastery
With licence of her brother afoze nominate
In honour of saint Peter/ouer the blessed body
Of the sayd saint Oswald/kyng and martyꝝ coꝝonate
In wiche monastery this lady was tumulate
The yere of our loꝝde. ix. hundꝛeth and nyntene
Whom myn auctour prayseth in this woꝝdes serene

Henric. ii. b.

O Elfreda potens/o terroꝝ birgo birorum:
Victrix nature nomine digna biri,
Te quoqꝫ splendidioꝝ fecit natura puellam
Te probitas fecit nomen habere biri.
Te mutare docet sed solum nomina sexus
Tu regina potens/rectꝫ trophea parans
Jam nec cesarei tant meruere triumphꝫ
Caesare splendidoꝝ birgo birago. Vale.

Of the notable myracles of saynt Werburge shewed
in the tyme of chanons/and spꝛk howe she saued Chest
from destruction of walschemen

Cap. b.

This glorious Werburge and blyghd pure
By singular grace of god omnipotent
Shewed many myracles to euery creature
To blynde/dombe halt/lame/and impotent
In the cite of Chestre whan her shryne was present
Like wyse as in her lyfe at Wedon/at Hambury
Witneseth the same her true legende and hystory

Where to the honour/prayse and laudacion
Of Jesu/the seconde persone in trinite
And of this birgin a speciall commendacion
We purpose to reherse nowe with charite
Under the protection of you that shall the reders be
Parte of the myracles/ with mynde diligent
In this humble stile/and sentence consequent

The first myracle/ that our blessed sauiour
Shewed for his spouses/after her translation
To Chestre: was nye the tyme of Edwardes sentour
Son to kyng Alured famous of renoune
The Name of britons was chaunged that season
Were named wallhemen in the montaynes segregate
Euer to the saxons haupnge inwarde hate

*Ann 901
Ladell flode
from
11910*

The Wallhemen that tyme had ouer them a kyng
Called Griffinus/to be theyr gouernour
Elected by the comons their appetite folowynge
Endurate with malice/couetise and rancour
Ennemies to englischemen/as is said befoze
This kyng intended by mortall enuy
The cite of Chestre to spoyle and distre
Werburge.

A myghty host descended from the mountans
Well armed and strongly appoehyng the cite
Prepared for batell with them great ordinaunce
The sayd Griffinus and all his company
With his power passed ouer the water of Dey
Whiche ryuer adioyneth to the sayd towne
Betwene Englande and Wales a sure diuision

This kynge layd siege vnto Chestre cite
With all his great host/there honour to wyne
By policie of warre/encreasynge myghtyle
For whiche the citezens remainyng within
were soze disconsolate like for to twayne
With wofull heup hartes they dyd call and crye
Vpon blessed Werburge for helpe and remedye

The charitable chanons with great deuocion
Toke the holy shryne of theyr patrones
Set it on the towne walles for helpe and tuicion
Trustynge on her to be saued from distres
But one of the ennemyes with great wyckednes
Smote the sayd shryne in castynge of a stone
And it empaired/piteous to loke vpon

Anone great punishment vpon them all lyght
The kyng and his host were smytten with blyndnes
That of the cite/they had no maner of spght
And he that smote the holy shryne doubtles
Was greuously vexed with a spryte of darkenes
And with hidous payne expired miserably
The kyng was soze adzed/and all his company

Shortly the kynge remoued his great host
Departed from the cite without any praye
And gaue in commaundement in euery coost
Saynt Werburge landes to meyntheyne alway
Assigned her possessions euer after that day
With the signe of the crosse a token euident
In pleasynge this virgin / for drede of punysshement.

Howe saynt Werburge cured and healed a woman
thre tymes (whiche was halte and lame) to helth and p
sperite agayne. Cap. vi.

In the cite of Chestre (the legende doth expresse)
An honest matrone dwelled / Gaida nominat
Whiche by continuance / and payne of sickenes
Was made halt and lame / of helth all desperate
yet to saynt Werburge her hart was eleuate
Instantly requiried with humble supplicacion
This holy virgin for helth / and pseruacion

Anone by the merite of this lady clere
The pacient restored to helth and prosperite
Gaue honour and thanks to Werburge and praye
Entendynge euer after her true seruaunt to be
And truely continue lyuynge in pure chastite
But shortly she brake her promesse made in syght
Folowynge her appetite and carnall lustes full ryght

She had great riches welth and prosperite
And married with pleasure after her entencion
Where thries she endured her olde infirmite
And thries was cured by meke intercession

Werburge.

O. li.

To helth of body from peynfull contraction
Thus by the merite of this virgin pure
She was deliuered from peyne thries to pleasure

This forsayd Gadgide prudently pondering
These notable miracles with her gostly eye
Gave great comendacion and speciall thankynge
To almyghty god / with feruent humilite
And to saynt Werburge knelynge on kne
Came to her oratorie and gaue an oblacion
To the holy chyrche with singular deuocion

Howe saynt Werburge saued Chestre from innume-
rable barbarike nacions / purposynge to dystrope and
spoyle the sayd cite vtterly Cap. vii.

An other tyme innumerable barbarike nacions
Came to spoyle Chestre to robbe it and dystroy
(Sayth the hysto:ye) from diuers regions
Hastode kyng of Danes / the kyng of gotes & galwed
Hailcolyn of Scotlande and all theyr company
With baners displayed well armed to fyght
Theyr tentes rially in hoole heth were pyght

They set theyr ordinaunce agaynst the towne
Upon euery side / timorous for to le
Namely at the northgate they were redy bowne
By myght police to haue entred the cite
The citezens dredynge to be in captiuite
Made intercession vnto this holy abbasse
For theyr deliuerance in suche extreme case

The deuout chanons sette the holy thyrne
Agaynst theyr enemies at the sayd northgate
Trustyng to Werburge to saue them from ruyne
And shewe some myracle to them disconsolate
For the citezens were of their lyues desperate
Passyng mannes mynde to escape theyr daunger
But all only by merite of this virgin clere

As the kynges were sautpyng this forsayd cite
Trustyng for a praye to haue it euery hour
One of the sayd ennemies replet with iniquite
Nat worthyping y virgin/no: dreyng our saulour
Smote this riall relique with a stone in his rancour
Broke therof a corner curiously wrought
Cast all to the ground: than sorowe came vnsought

The sayd malefactour nat passyng the place
Vexed with the deuill for his greuous offence
Rozpnyng and yellyng his outrageous trespass
Toze his tonge a sonder in wodely violence
Miserable expired afoze them in presence
Satan ceased nat to shewe great punysshement
Upon his soule and body by signes euident

*How good hat
Satan was
now repentant
that he had bygone
of his own paynt.*

These kynges consideryng this soden vengeaunce
Amonge them all lyght so soone and hastely
Shortly remoued theyr great ordinaunce
Departed from the cite with theyr company
Callyng on this virgin fast for grace and mercy
Promyttynge neuer after to retourne agayne
To disquiete her seruantes and cite incertayne
Werburge

THowe saynt Werburge by her merite sent frute to a
barrayne woman by syngular prayer made vnto her
The. viii. chapitre.

A Noble gentilman/a consul in office
Descendynge of the hie and riall blodde of colly
Elected a spoules at his owne deuice
A swete faire gentil woman curtes and comly
Nominat Judith/ ioynded to hym in matrimony
With whom this lady lyued a longe season
Barrayn and fruteles of generacion

She dailly lamented her great wretchednes
As woman infortunate full of miserie
Prayed to saynt Werburge with interiour mekenes
For remedy and helpe agaynst that wofull infamye
Desired to haue issue and frute of her bodie
If it pleased god/and this virgin also
Most greattest comfort to bypnye her hert from wo

Saynt Werburge appered to her in viscion
In white bright besture/clere as the cristall
Expreßynge wordes of great consolacion
Most ioyfull to Judith to make reherfall
Commaundynge her by the effect speciall
To go to her churche with syngular deuocion
And praye our sauour with humble supplicacion

Also for to compasse her holy aulter
With a linen cloth/knelynge on her kne
And after for to take the same cloth in fep
And compas her wombe about reuerentle

This Judith was ioyfull/and rose by perle
And truly fulfilled this gospell vision
From thence departed to her propre mansion

Soone after this wyfe afore rehersed
Conceyued a childe and had succession
Prayling this virgin in hart worde and dede
And after the tyme of her purification
Of the same faire cloth she made oblacion
Richely set in syluer/well wrought in compass
With many riche enoymentes. she sende to this place

After came her selfe unto the monastery
With many of her neyghbours/they nye dwelling
Prayling and lauding this glorious lady
With cordiall thankynges makyng theyr offeryng
Of this great myracles true witness bearyng
Departed from the place with ioy and deuotion
All the sayd company/echo to theyr mansion.

Of a woman great with childe with payne brought
out of her wytt / by saynt Werburge was restoured to
reason agayne. Cap. ix.

In the prouince of Cheshire/knowen it is of olde
A certayne man dwelled/of great honeste
Whiche had a doughter disposed manyfolde
To sondre vertues/clennes/and humilite
This humble mayde ioyned was in matrimonye
To an honest yong man / of whom she conceyued
And was great with childe/openly perceyued

Whan the tyme appoched of her deliuerance
Uered she was with myke wo and payne
Continuallly enduryng / with suche hidous greuaunce
That out of her mynde she went incertayne
All phisike and medecyns were founde to her in vayne
No comfort in erth helpe nor remedye
For he thought be founde in suche extremitte

Her father and mother and her frendes all
Brought they? dere doughter with great deuotion
To saynt Werburge churche / requyryng speciall
This blessed birgin / with humble intercession
To helpe the patient from all betraction
Promysynge an oblacion to this lady bryght
Whan she vnto reason were comen a ryght

And as she slepped at the auker ende
Wofully cruciat with peynes hiduous
Passyng mannes cure it for to amende
Anone by the merite of this birgin glorious
She was released from all payne greuous
And fully restozed to her reason agayne
Had good deliuerance / and spedde well in certayne

Whiche myracle knowen / her frendes euerychone
And all the good matrons of the sayd cite
Came holly togyther with they? oblacion
To the holy shryne thankyng with hart fee
This blessed birgin of her benygntie
Whiche is so redy a mediatrix alway
To helpe her true seruantes both nyght and day

Howe an other woman vnlaufully wurkyng was
made blynde / and by saynt Werburge restored was to
her syght agayne. Cap. x.

Within the same cite afore the abbay gate
Dwelled a woman / which brake the comaundement
Of god and holy churche / hys sabbot day dyd violate
Vnlaufully wurkyng: wherfore great punysshement
fell vpon this woman with peynes equiualent
Sodaynly smytten / wurkyng full busely
With greuous blyndnes / and mycle miserie

This woman consyderynge her syght was gone
The pleasure of this worlde her helpe and succour
Hauynge to lyue by / small riches or none
Cried maynly out out alas every hour
Wo is me wretche fylled with dolour
Alas I was borne to abyde this wofull day
My maker to displease / alas what shall I say

She called to memorie with hys discrecion
The myracles that Werburge shewed to mankynde
By grace she repented / with suche contricion
That water distilled from her eyes blynde
Dolefully lamentynge / that she was so vnkynde
Ruthfully was brought to Werburge oratory
Trustyng in this virgin to haue remedy

As she continued in her supplicacion
Wofully wepyng / abidyng the great grace
Of blessed Werburge / with singular inuocacion
At ones she was cured to helth and solace

Werburge

p. i.

Restored to her eye sight / she passed the place
Praised our lord and this virgin pure
Was a holy woman after ye may be sure.

How saint Werburge restored to helth and p'spetite
bi. lame and halt p'sons by singular grace. Cap. xi.

The excellent fame of this glorious lady
Dilated was through all this region
Manifest by myracles full honorably
Therefore from diuers partes came many a person
For helth of body and gostly conuersacion
Some to be cured from payne intollerable
And some of old sores that were incurable

Amonge whom there came vnto her place
Sire wofull persones / cured for to be
Halt blynde and lame besekyng her of grace
With humble supplicacion vpon them haue pite
With wepyng treates sayenge / o souerayn ladye
O imperiall princeesse and kynges doughter deere
Heele our disease by thy instant prayer

O blessed virgin and holy moyniall
O glorious abbasse / and worthy gouernour
O pereles patens and minis're spirituall
O celestiall gemme resplendent with honour
Praye for vs wretches vnto our sauour
That we may opteyne here mercy and grace
Cured of our sekene's / after to se thy face

Thy name transcendeth this realme swete lady

Thy myzacles magnifyen thy great goodnes
Thy worshyp increaseth with honour and glorie
Daily euermore through thy great holynes
Shewe now thy power/cure vs from sekeneſſe
That by the we may prayſe the kyng of blis
As thou haſt cured manyone of this

By theſe make prayers/ in hert full penitent
And many other orizons ſayd priuately
Callyng on this virgin with deuocion feruent
For certayne/ or they paſſed the monaſtery
They were all cured from peyne and malady
In wytnes wherof/ and triall as it was
They ſtraues remayned longe after in the place

Howe a yonge man thries hanged vnlawfully Was
thries deliuered by ſaynt Werburge from dethe to lyfe
and lyberte. Cap. xli.

Almyghty god gaue in commaundement
By moſſes lawe/ to his people echone
No innocent to ſlee by wrongfull iudgement
No cauſeles to punyſhe by geruous oppreſſion
Alſo to beware of lyght ſuſpection
Wherof a myzacle we ſhall now expreſſe
Done in Cheſtre cite by Werburge theyr patronneſſe.

A certayne yonge man dwelled in the cite
Honeſt in maners/ and of good conuerſacion
Diſpoſed to vertue and humilite
Was arreſt and taken of a lyght ſuſpicion
By the officers and rules of the ſayd towne
Werburge. p. lii.

Gyltes accused most innocently
Condemned and iudged to deth shamfully

After sentence gauen/miniſtres were all redy
Upon the iudgement to do execution
He was fettred and brought to the gebbet by and by
And as a ſtronge theſe hanged ther vpon
His frendes and colyns for hym made great mone
Alas what tonge myght expreſſe the wo
They made that tyme departynge hym fro

And as this innocent hang in his payne
He called to mynd the manyfolde goodnes
The myracles of Werburge ſhewed her certayne
Howe ſhe had ſaued many in great diſtref
So whan he myght no wordes expreſſe
In mynde he requiered her and humbled byd pray
From ſhamfull deth to ſaue hym that day

Whan all the officers departed were thenſ
Suppoſynge the ſoule ſeperate from the body
A white done deſcended afore them in preſence
And lycht vpon the gebbet immediatly
The byrde with his byll brake the rope truely
The priſoner eſcaped that tyme from deth
Shortly reuiuyng toke naturall breath

Whiche thyng notified ſo meruailous in ſpyght
The miniſters returned/they labour in vayne
Toke this innocent by power and myght
Vpon the ſayd gebbet hanged hym agayne
Thus he was deliuered by myracle from payne

The tortuous turmentours cessed their tyranny
Permytted the prisoner to go at liberte

Whiche myracle knowen/his frendes and cosyns all
Returned agayne with glad mynde and chere
The prisoner mette them louyng god in speciall
And blessed Werburge in his best manere
The deuout citezens approached them nere
Went all to the shypne the virgin thankyng
The belles were tolled for ioy of this thyng

Howe at the maner place of Upton saint Werburge
restrayned wylde hoxes from distruction of cornes put
in by theyr ennemyes. Cap. xiii.

Also the thyrde season approached to Chestre cite
Many cruell ennemyes in the part of Wirall
Purposyng to spoyle and distroy all the countre
The people and theyr frutes/theyr corne and cattall
The citezens dzedying to be captiue and thral
Fortified the cite with men of armes bryght
Hauynge sure artillarie for to defende and fight

The husbandes of the countrey about there dwelling
Agaynst the sayd ennemyes makynge soze prouysion
Brought thei corne & cattell thei husold remaynyng
In assurance to be/to the parke of Upton
Saynt Werburge landes from all distruction
Whiche parke from Upton was distaunt a myle space
A prebende to a chanon of her mynstre and place

These wycked ennemyes fulpylled with malice
Werburge.

p. liii.

Agaynst all conscience and ordre of charite
In no maner wise Dredynge the hie iustice
Entred the sayd parke with mycle cruelte
Pulled downe the paale at pleasure and liberte
But in theyr hoxses made great destruction
Of cornes and catell of a hie presumption

Werburge remembrynge theyr great wyckednes
Theyr malice and myschief agaynst her possession
By myracle shewed her power and goodnes
Preseruyng her seruantes from all vexacion
And punysshynge her enemies with great affliction
As she hath done many seasons or this
By mean to her spouse our lord kyng of blis

Whan the corne sheuys lape broken afore them playne
The hoxses had no power any part to take
For why? by myracle theyr heedes all in certayne
Were vp holden in the ayre / theyr bodyes sore dyd quake
They touched no frutes / wast they dyd none make
Of the principall doers / some ragged out of mynde
Some smetyn with palsy / some lepze halt and blynde

Whiche punysshement knowen vnto all the host
The rulers and captens without any delape
Knyght agayne the sheuys / that none shulde be lost
With tremblunge hartes humbly began to praye
This holy virgin to saue them that daye
Upon a condicion / escappynge from payne
Endurynge theyr lyfeneuer to turne agayne

From that tyme furth thet day no nacton

Conspyderyng the power of this birgin pure
Approchyng Chestre cite to make derogacion
Denmarke Goet no: Galway Scot ye may be sure
Cruell danes no: walthemen dare nat procure
Wherfoze the citezens haue cause to loue the place
And thanke this birgin for her helpe and grace

Howe a chanon of Chestre haupng his leg and thie
broken was restaured to helth by saynt Werburge hys
patronesse. Cap. xlii.

Within Chestre mynstre that holy place
Dwelled a chanon nominate Alminus
Sad of disposition by syngular grace
Humble and pacient/discrette and vertuouus
Liberall and honest/gentyll and piteous
And for a pastyme this was his pleasure
To hunt and to hauke to confort nature

And as this chanon rode for his solace
On huntynge with other honest company
By fortune vnfrendly/the more pite was
Both horse and man fell to grounde sodendly
In perill of thei: lyues standynge in leoperdye
The horse downe lyenge oppressed the chanon
Broke his leg a sondre/with blod great effusion

Whan by his company the chanon was by take
He fell in a sworne for anguish the wo and payne
All wordly riches redy to forsake
For one hour of quietnes to be had agayne
Unto his mancton they brought hym certayne
Werburge. p. llii.

Where he continued in mycle wo and langoure
Abdyng allonly the mercy of our saviour

Couynng surgeons were sought vpon every syde
To cure this gentylman from penalite
But none of them by wysdome coude proude
Clerely to heele hym and do hym remedye
Thus he remediles in extreme teopardye
Prayed to saynt Werburge his patronesse
For helth and remedye of her great goodnesse

Whose humble prayer with in daed lowe sequentior
Was graciously harde of her charite
For right soone after appered euident
A byrde like a doue most clere for to see
Into the chanons chambze the byrde flew true
Among the company and anonc doubtles
The place was repleit with odour and swetnes

Soone after the company euerichone
Were sadly on slepe a thyng meruaylous
And afoze the pacient by playne vision
Saynt Werburge appered in his syght full glorious
Sayeng: my chaplayne and seruaunt vertuous
Why be ye absent from diuine seruice
Nat doyng your dutie accor dyng to iustice

Oa damie he sayd and swete president
It is well known to all the cite
Of my mylfortune and harmes euident
Howe my hoxe almost had oppressed me
Wherfore an impotent I endure mylere

It is no feyned cause that I do expresse
I beseeke you of helpe now sweete maistres

Saynt Werburge euer piteous and merciable

Upon her seruantes in great distresse

Conforted her chaplayne with wordes delectable

Proved in effect by her excellent goodnes

To his lyght and felynge as he dyd expresse

She touched the foote that sore and broken was

Cured it holly from payne by singular grace

Whan she had cured thus this impotent

Anone she departed out of his lyght

The chanon gaue honour to god omnipotent

And to this virgin and lady bryght

Of this gostly vision comfort and lyght

All payne was past sekene's beracion

Helth was come by prayne probacion

The chanon rose by the same mydnyght

And went to mattens as custome was

His bretherne were glad with all theyr myght

Praised our lord of his singular grace

And Werburge patrones of the sayd place

Also with honour reuerence and humilite

The bretherne sange te Deum solemne

A brefe reherfall of certayne kynges / and how kyng
Edgar came to Chestre. Also howe Leofrice Erle of
Chestre repaired diuers churches. Cap. xv.

After the decesse of kyng Edward the senious

Ethelstan his sonne was coronate at London

Kyng of this lande/regnynge in honour
With power regall by true succession
Valeant in chivalry and actes everychone
Subdued danes/scottes/norwages/britons all
Optyned triumphe and dignite imperiall

The fourth yere of his reigne/and the yere of grace
viii.hundzeth.ii. and lxxviij. by full computation
Guy earle of Warwike by fortune slayne hase
Colbond the graunt floure of danes nacion

The sayd kyng Ethelstan by power and renowne
Thre subdued danes/and hewe the kyng of Irelande
Nominat prince Anlaf, as we vnderstande

This noble Ethelstan was good and gracious
To all holy churche namely to religion
Ryghtfull in iudgement/ liberall and piteous
To his true subiectes through his dominion
To mynstres and holy places had great affection
Confirmed theyr foundations with libertes clere
Whose noble actes be touched a lytell here

*Regis progenies produxit nobile stemma.
Cum tenebris nostris illuxit splendida gemma.
Magnus Ethelstanus patrie decus/orbis regis
Illustria probitas & veritas fecit.*

After Ethelstan regned Edmunde his brothur
Fyue yeres in honour/ haupng great victorie
Princis Elred and Edwyn succeded eytherothur
In great busines with scottes and danes truly
Next whom meke Edgar/ sayth the history
xvi. yere of age/ coronate at kyngston
With peace and quietnes first ruled this region

In whose nativite the blessed Dunstan
Herde angels singe with mycle melody
Peace is now come to Englande certain
Quietnes / and rest / honour / and victoꝝ
Of coꝝnes and frutes that tyme was plentise
Danes / norwales / scottes / bꝛitons in euery place
Submytted them selfe to the kynges grace

Science encreased true loue and amite
Vertue was exalted in all this region
Monasteries were edified of his benigne
Endowed with riches / and stall possession
Religious places by famous opinion
Were newly buylded by the sayd noble kyng
In sondꝝ places of this realme standyng

Secular prestes expelled forthely were
From diuers monasteries with great discrecion
Religious persones repleit with vertue clere
Entred their places cause of deuotion
Charite was feruent and holy religion
The lyues of sayntes were soth in eche place
And wꝛitten in legendes for our comfort and grace

Many shippes were made by the kynges cost
To serche by the se all his lande about
That no alyan entre in no maner cost
By pollicie and manhod to holde all his enemies out
Danes / norwales / scottes / bꝛitons / and ones longe out
Suche dꝛode all nations had enuynge the tyme
That kyng Edgar reigned by pꝛouidence diuine
In pꝛogresse he passed ouer in the yere
Eche quarter of the realme with his company

To se that his subiectes well ordred were
And the lawe obserued / iustice with mercy
Than was none oppression wronges nor iniury
Debate malice rancour myght nat be founde
True loue and charite was in all the londe

Ann. 959 Kyng Edgar approached the cite of legtons

Nowe called Chestre / specified afoze

Where. viii. kynges mette of diuers nacions
Redy to gyue Edgars reuerence and honoure
Legiance and fidelite depely sworne full soze
At the same cite: after to be obedient
Prompt at his calling to come to his parliament

From the Castell he went to the water of Dee
By a priue posturne through walles of the towne
The kyng toke his barge with mycle rialte
Rowyng upwarde to the churche of saynt Iohn
The fox sayd. viii. kynges with hym went alone
Kyng Edgar kept the oorne / as most principall
Eche prince had an oxe to labour with all

Whan the kyng had done his pylgrimage

And to the holy roode made oblation

They entred agayne into the sayd barge

Passyng to his place with great reuerence

Than Edgar spake in prayse of the crowne

All my successours may glad and ioyfull be

To haue such homage honour and dignite

Also it is to be had in remembrance

That this sayd Edgar and his principall

Ann^o. 919. Lxxv. Elfric. / Edghead. Son of King Edward
Alfred. wyf of Adelreda Dyke of Mercia. / R. p. d. and
Came with great reuerence vnto the monastery Westminster
To worshyp saynt Werburge with mynde liberall
Where he gaue freedoms and priuileges speciall
With singular possessions of his charite
Confirmynge the olde grauntes by hye auctorite

This Edgar was nominate in cronicles expresse
The floure of Englade/ regnyng as emperour
Lyke wise as Romulus to romans was of prowes
Cyrys to the persis/ to the grekes their conquerour
Great Charles to frenchemen/ to troians Hector
Famous in victorie preigant in wysdome
Vertuous and pacient/ feruent in deuocion
Hentic. li^o. b.

Auctoropum vindixit scelerum/ largitoz honorum
Scepstriger Edgatus regna superna petit.
Hic alter Solomon/ legum pater/ orbita pacis
Quod clauit bellis/ clauit inde magis.
Templa deo/ templis monachos/ monachis dedit agros:
Requitie lapsum/ iusticieqz locum.

Also from the byrthe of our blessed sauour
A thousande fyfty yere/ and seyn expresse
In the tyme of saynt Edward kyng and confessor
As William Maluesbury beareth wytnes
Than Leofricus a man of great mekenes
Was erle of Chestre and duke of mercens
Son to duke Leofwin by liniall disceunce

This noble Leofric sayth policronicon
Of his deuocion and beningne grace

250 Namely by the counsell and vertues motion
Of his lady Godith countes whiche was
Reedified churches decayed in many a place
Also he founded the monastery of Leonence
By the towne of Herford/ and the place of Wenlecence

This erle repareled a noble olde monastery
Eucham upon Auen/ gaue them great riches
Also founder was of the abbay in couentre
Made the cite free for loue of his countesse
At the cite of Chestre of his great goodnes
He repared the College church of saynt Iohn
Endowed it with riches and enowmentes many one

This erle of Chestre the sayd Leofricus
Of his charite/ and feruent deuotion
To the honour of god/ reedified full gracious
The mynstre of Werburge within the sayd towne
Gaue vnto it riches and singular possession
Endowed the sayd place with freedoms and liberte
And speciall priuileges confirmed by auctorite

So the sayd place encreased in honour
In great possessions/ freedoms/ and richesse
With singular deuotion vnto our sauour
And prayse to saynt Werburge theyr patronesse
The chanons obserued vertue and clemes
Daily augmenting by diuine sufferaunce
Vnto the comyng to this lande of nozmans

Of the comyng of Wyllyam conquerour to this lade
and howe Hug. Lupe his syster sonne was founder of

The yere of grace. M. lxxviii. and thescour — 1066
The. xlii. day of the moneth of october
The duke of Normandy/ William conquerour
Wight a stronge batell/ displayed his baner
Of normans and frenchemen haupnge great power
Subdued kyng Harold/ opteyned all the londe
Was cozonate at London/ made saxons all bonde H

For diuerse great causes he came to this countre
First for deth of Alured his nere kynsman
The proscription of Robert archebischop of Canfbury
The petiury of Harold agaynst conscience playne
The promys of saynt Edward made to hym certayne
That the sayd Wylliam shulde enioye the crowne
If the kyng departed without succession

A generall counsell was celebrate at London
That all bysshops sees by helpe of the conquerour
From borowes shulde be translate to a famous towne
Within their dioceß/ to the greater honour
Ryght so they all were/ sayth myn auctour
Also the see of Lichefeld was translate to Chester,
By helpe and sufferaunce of the bysshop Peter

With Wylliam conquerour came to this region
A noble worthy pryncce nominate Hug. Lupus
The dukes son of Britayne/ and his syster son
Flouryng in chivalry bolde and victorious
Manfull in batell/ liberall and vertuouse
To whom the kyng gaue for his enheritaunce

The counte of Cheshire with the apputtinaunce

By victorie to wyinne the sayd Erledom
Frely to gouerne it as by conquest right
Hade a sure chartre to hym and his succession
By the werde of dignite to holde it with myght
And to calle a parlement to his wyl and lyght
To orde his subiectes after true iustice
As a pze potent pynce/and statutes to deuise

This baleant knyght with a myghty host
Descended from London to wyinne the sayd counte
But the lordes of Cheshire rose from euery cost
Agaynst hym made batell and had the victorie
Thries they pzeuayled agaynst the erle counte
After he optayned to his fame and honour
The erledome of Cheshire entred as a conquerour

He gaue to his knyghtes after theyr desire
Lordshyps and franchises/and great possession
With riche mariages within all Cheshire
Exalted his seruantes to hye promotion
Unto holy churche had special deuotion
Maynteyne iustice/commendynge vertue
Deposyng vice by the helpe of Iesu

After the departure of his vncle the conquerour
Whan William Ruff. toke the regalite
Than blessed Anselme the famous doctour
Dyd bilet this lande oft tymes of his charite
Glad to refourme/and bynge vnto unite
Where was debate/and mycle dussion

By diligent labour and good exhortacion

**This forsayd erle of his benygnte
Intenously lounge holy religion
Replett with vertue and feruent charite
Sende for saynt Anselme vnto London
To come to Chestre at his petition
And there for to founde a religious place
In honour of Werburge by diuine grace**

**Blessed Anselme at the erles supplicacion
Came vnto Chestre with gladde chere shortly
Where he founded an abbaye of holy religion
A pleasaunt place and a noble monasterye
In worshyp of god/and saynt Werburge for help
The yere of grace by full computacion
A thousande. iiii. scoze. xiii. yere alon**

1093

**All secular prestes/ and chanons also
Within the sayd place afore tyme dwelling
Were clerely dismyssed/and letten go
Religious monkes perfect in luyng
Receyued were gladly their rule professyng
Saynt Anselme ordeyned Bic of Beccenp
To be their abbot with great preeminence**

**Landes/rentes/libertes/and great possession
Franches/fredoms/and priuileges riall
Were gyuen mekely to that foundation
Maners/borowes/townes/with the people thral
And many faire churches/chapels withall
Wardes and mariages were gyuen that season
Werburge**

q. 1.

To god and saynt Werburge cause of deuocion

Kyng Wyllyam Ruf. son to the conquerour
Confirmed the foundacion / with great auctorite
Endowed the monastery with mycle honour
Offredoms / franchises / also liberte
The place that tyme was made as fre
As the sayd erle was in his castell
O: as hert myght thynke / o: tonge myght tell

Saynt Anselme departed thence vnto London
And was made archebischop of Canturbury
To the place he gaue a sure confirmacion
With singular priuileges to be had in memoꝝ
Of whom it is wrytten here folowynge trulþ
Hic vir dum vivit extirpantes maledixit
Werburge iura pꝛesentia sine futura.

This noble pꝛince gaue of his charite
Riall riche enoꝛmentes vnto the sayd place
Coopes / crosses / Jewels of great rialte
Chales / censures / vestures / and landes byd purchase
A libꝛarie of bokes to rede and synge there was
Of whiche riall iewels and bokes some remayne
Within the sayd monastery to this day certayne

The founder also buylded within the monasterie
Many myghty places / conuentent for religton
Compaled with stronge walles on the west partie
And on the other syde with walles of the towne
Closed at euery ende with a sure postꝛon
In south part the cimiterie inuironed rounde about

foz a sure defence ennemies to holde out

The. ix. yere after this riall foundacion

This noble founder the. xxii. day of July

Departed towarde the heuently mancion

Next whom his son Richarde succeeded truly =

Than regnyng in honour the first kyng Henry

Also the place had their fraunches and fredom

Afoze the sayd cite a hundreth yere and one

Howe saynt Werburge taught her monke and cha-
playne to kepe paciens for his greater merite and glo-
rye to come. Cap. xxii.

After the translatioun of Chestre monasterpe

from secular chanons to monkes religious

By helpe of Anselme archebishop of Canturburpe

Supportyng therto the founder Dug. Lupus

As afoze is specified full memoious

A monke there dwelled of vertuous disposicion

Under obedience/ nominate dan Symon

This brother Simon his tyme well blyng

Nowe in vertuous study/ nowe in contemplacion

Nowe in deuout prayer/ nowe busely wyrttyng

Somtyme in solace/ and honest recreacion

Observed deuouthy his holy religion

Obedience/ patience/ and wylfull pouerte

Wekenes/ meditacion/ with pure chastite

For whiche examples and signes of vertus

Diuers of his bretherne repleit with enuy

Were fully confederate entendyng to subdue

This honest prest by malice and policy

Werburge.

q. ii.

They layd to his charge open wronges and intury
They punysshed & oppressed hym with great affliction
Dayly augmentyng by subtyll collusion

Dan Symon offendyng no brother at all
Observed patience / euer callynge for grace
Weptyng lamentyng with syghes cordiall
His fortune unfrendly remedies in that case
Entended to depart to some other place
Of a scrupulous conscience / sepyng no redresse
Was redy to procede plunged in heuynes

Werburge appered to this monke in vision
Bryghter than Phebus in his meridian spere
My seruauit she sayd callyng hym vpon
Why be ye so sad / and heuy of chere?
Wheder entende ye? he wote the mater clere
Alas he sayd ma dame and patronesse
For sorowe I can nat my peynes expresse

Diuers of my bretherne ben greued at me
Weptyng me dayly with great tribulacion
Causeles on my part beleued trule
In worde or en dede gyuyng none occasion
I can nat be quiet amonge that congregacion
Wherfore swete lady vnder your licence
I purpose to departe in sauyng my conscience

Saynt Werburge pacified his mynde and entent
With wordes of comfort and holy scripture
Made hym be humble in hert and patient
Thy sufferaunce shalbe great ioye and pleasure

And for thy pacience thou maist be sure
To haue rewarde in blis perpetuall
At thy departure from this lyfe mortall

Wherwith saynt Werburge departed sodeinl
To the blys of heuyn euer enduryng
The monke was meke in hert and mery
Observed her doctrine this lyfe continuyng
Gave good example of perfect luyng
Unto his bretherne/and at his departure
For his pacience passed to eternall pleasure

Howe sonde rose vp within the salt see agaynst Hyl
burghee by saynt Werburge at the petition of the constable of Chestre. Ca. xlii.

Theseconde erle of Chestre after the conquest
Was erle Richard son to Hug. Lupus
Whiche Richarde entended all thyng to the best
To visite saynt Winifride in hert desirous
Upon his journey went/myn auctour sayth thus
Deuoutly to holy well in pylgrimage
For his great merite and gostly aduantage

Whan the wicked walschenen herd of his comyng
After a meke maner vnto that party
They made insurrection inwardly glabdyng
Descended from the mountaynes most furiously
Agaynst the erle raised a cruell company
Bytwt hym and Chestre lettynge the knyghtes way
Purposynge to flee or take hym for a praye
Werburge. q. lli.

The erle son perceyued theyr malicious entent
In all hast possible sende to Cheshire secretly
To warne his constable by loue and commaundment
Wylliam the son of Wigell / to rase a great army
To mete hym at Balsynwerke right sone and speedely
For his deliuerance from deth and captiuite
Of the wyld walshemen / without humanite

The constable congregated in all goodly hast
A myghty stronge host / in theyr best arraye
Towardes Hilburghie on iourney ridyng fast
Trustyng vpon shippes all them to conuaye
Whiche was a riall rode that tyme nyght and daye
And whan they theer came shyping none there was
To carie all them ouer in conuenient space

Alas what hert may thynke / or tonge well expresse
The dolorous greuaunce / and great lamentacion
That the host made / for loue and tenderne
Knowyng thei great maister in suche persecucion
Some wept and wayled without consolacion
Some sighed and sobbed / some were in extasy
Without perfect reason / alas what remedy

Wylliam the constable most carefull man on lyue
Of his mysfortune in suche extreme necessite
Called to hym a monke there dwellyng contemplatyue
Requyred hym for counsaile and prayer for his charite
The monke exhorted hym to knele vpon his kne
Humble to beseke Werburge his patronesse
For helpe and remedy in suche great distresse

The constable content anone began to praye
O blessed Werburge and virgin pure
I beseeke the mekely helpe me this day
That we may transcend this truer safe and sure
To save and defende my lord from all comfiture
And here I promytte to god and the alone
To offre to the a gyfte at my comyng whome

Whiche prayer ended with wepyng and langour
Beholde and consydre well with your gostly ee
The infinite goodnes of our saviour
For like as to Moyses deuided the redde see
And the water of Jordan obeyed to Josue
Byght so the depe river of Dee made diuision
The sondes dye appered in syght of them echone

The constable consyderynge / and all the company
This great myracle transcendyng nature
Praised and magnified our lord god almyghty
And blessed Werburge the virgin pure
They went into wales vpon the sondes sure
Deliuered their lord from drede and enmite
Brought hym in safe garde agayne to Chestre cite

The said Wyllyam constable came to the monasterys
Thanked saynt Werburge with meke supplicacion
Fulpylled his promes made in extremite
Offred to the place the village of Neuton
Afterwarde he founded the abbay of Noxton
And where the host palled ouer her with bondes
To this day ben called the constable sondes

Howe Matild countesse of Chestre counselleng her
husband agaynst the monastery of Chestre was drom-
ned at Barflewe with many other mo. Cap. xix.

After the decesse of Hug. Lupe prenominate
Richard his son, hit peres of age
Was elect erle by the kyng and creat
With counsaile governed his landes and heritage
At peres of discrecion he toke in marlage
The lady Matild / nece to the first kyng Henry
Doughter to erle Stephan (Capth the history)

At his begynnyng he was a benefactour
A founder to the place by landes and possession
By franchises and libertes / ayde / helpe / and succour
Gyuen to the abbay / augmentyng the foundacion
Proued by his actes of singular deuocion
Enduryng long tyme / tyll that his lady
By wycked counsaile moued hym the contrarye

It is red in scripture howe quene Ielabell
Ambitious of honour agaynst all ryghtousnes
Peruerted her lordes Achas / kyng of Israell
To sle Nabath for his vineyard doubtles
Also Athalia / the bible sheweth expresse
Commaunded to sle the kynges chyliden all
That she myght regne sole princeste imperiall

Ryght so this Matild clerely refusyng
The steppes of Sara / Rebecca / and Rachel
And other good matrons : but mutacion takyng
Of these wycked women Athali and Ielabell

Peruerted her husbände by her subtyll counsell
To aske of the abbot the maner place of **Salton**
With the appurtinaunce by famous opinion

The abbot by counsell of his bretherne all
Denyed to graunt their propre possession
The patrimony of **Christ** and their landes seuerall
To the sayd erle **Richarde** and his succession
Gyuen by his father at the first foundation
For whiche thyng the erle and **Matilda** his lady
Hated the abbot / the bretherne / and the monastery

The erle and his countesse went to **Normandy**
To viset their frendes and colyns naturall
So dyd the princis / their father kyng **Henry**
With many estates of the blodde riall
These princis fauored no saxon at all
The erle conominat in malice and hate
Agaynst the monasterie / as a man endureate

Satan sende forth his seruantes in hast
To enfect the erles hert with venomous poison
The bedys of **Belial** attempted full fast
The erle and his countesse / to kepe theyr opinion
Detractours flaterers cause of promotion
Trustyng therby to opteyne fauour and grace
Excited their myndes agaynst the sayd place

The erle soze attempted by his gostly ennemy
By wycked people callyng hym vpon
Namely by the counsell of **Matilda** his lady
Entended to alter and chaunge the foundation

Werburge

l. 1.

Of the sayd abbay to a nother religion
Confirmed the same swerping most depely
At his whom comyng to Englande / from Normandy

Chabbot and couent knowyng this great perell
By speciall louers and frendes secretly
Were pensyue and sorowfull (it was no meruell)
Their hertes plunged in wo and misery
By naturall reason haupyng no remedy
Consyderyng his malice encreased more and more
Agaynst the monastery / with wordes of rigour

They had their hope trust and confidence
In blessed Werburge their patronesse
With wepyng eyes clere in conscience
They called her vpon in all their distresse
O glorious virgyn lady and swete maistres
Metigate the malice by thy benigneite
Of Richarde our lord / mekely we praye the

Suffre hym neuer to distroye thy place
By wycked confell malice and enuy
Founded and dedicate by heuently grace
In honour of god / and the specially
Protect / defende / and saue thy monastery
Thy landes / thy libertes / and thy seruauntes all
As thou afoze tyme hast done continuall

In meane tyme the erle entended spedely
From thens to depart / and retourne agayne
To fulfyll his entent agaynst the monastery
By the subtyll mocion of his countesse playne

A ship was prepared/all thyng redy certayne
The prince of England/the erle and his lady
Toke shippynge at Barlewe and all theire compaigny

Certaynly they sayled but a lytell space =
Whan agaynst them roose a contrarie wynde
The mariners to gyde the ship had no grace
The stormes so great hiduous agaynst kynde
On a rocke they ranne/no remedy myght fynde
Incontinently the ship barst all in sondre
The erle and his feliship were turned all bndre

Ann/ 1119/7

No man ne childe scaped from deth that tyme
But one poore seruaunt whiche swamme to the londe
Suche was theyr fortune by sufferaunce diuine
Many of theyr bedis were neuer fonde
Thus was their power made thral and bonde
Theyr lyues were lost within a lyttel space
Whiche were cruell ennemys vnto her place,

On saynt Katharins day at after mydnyght
Whan matens were ended/and bzyetherne gon
Some mournyng waylyng for drede full nyght
Some busie in prayer and contemplacion
Werburge appered to the seerist an alone
Sayenge: ye may be ioyfull in god and mery
Erle Richard is drowned your mortall enemy

The same glad tidynge shewed an honest woman
Tollyng at the church doze the sayd day and houre
As she was commaunded by Werburge incertan
To thabbot and couent plunged in great langour
Werburge.

l.ii.

(Whiche myracle herde) they prayed our sauour
And blessed Werburge/ with hert deuoutly
Syngyng Te deum full solemply

Howe a great fire like to distroye all Chestre by my-
racle ceased/ whan the holy Chryne was borne about the
towne by the monkes. Cap. xx.

From the incarnation of our sauour
A thousand / a hundreth yere. lxxx. also
On sonday in myblenton / the. viii. houy
Whan euery parcellen theyr churche went to
As all christen people of dutie shulde do
A fyre by infortune rose by sodeinly
All flamyng feruent o: the people dyd espy

This fearefull fire encreased moze and moze
Piteously wastynge hous / chambze / and hall
The citezens were redy their cite to succour
Shewed all their diligence / and labour continuall
Some cried for water / and some for hookes dyd call
Some bled other engins by crafte and policy
Some pulled downe howles afoze the fire truly

Other that were impotent / mekely gan praye
Our blessed lord / on them to haue pite
Women and childzen cried out and waille away
Beholdyng the daunger and perill of the cite
Prestes made hast diuine seruice to supple
Redy for to succour their neyghbours in distres
(As charite required) and helpe their heynnes

The fire contynued without any cessynge
feruently flampng euer contynual
from place to place meruaylously rennyng
As it were tyndet consuming route and wall
The citezens sably laboured in bayne all
By the policie of man was founde no remedy
To cesse the fire so feruent and myghty

Alas great heuynes it was to beholde
The cite of Trope all flampng as fire
More pite of Rome cite was manyfolde
feruently flagrant / empeitryng the empire
As to the quantite the cite of Cheshire
Myght be assembled this tyme in like case
To the sayd citees remedeles alas

Many riall places fell adowne that day
Riche marchauntes houses brought to destruction
Churches and chapels went to great decay
That tyme was bzent the more part of the towne
And to this present day is a famous opinton
Howe a myghty churche a mynstre offaynt Michael
That season was bzent and to ruine fell

Whan the people sawe their power insufficient
By diligent labour / wysdome and policye
To subdue the fire / but styll dyd augment
To almyghty god they dyd call and crye
And to saynt Werburge the gracious lady
For helpe and succour in suche wretchednes
Weppng and waylyng for woo and heuynes
Werburge

r.iii.

Thabbot and couent of the sayd monasterie
Religiously lyupng in holy conuersion
Repleit with mekenes and feruent charite
Toke the holy shryne in prayer and deuocion
Syngyng the letanie bare it in procession
Compasyng the fyre in euery strete and place
Trustyng in Werburge for helpe aide and grace

Whan they had ended the holy letanye
From place to place procedyng in stacion
Anone a stremyng sterre appered sodaynlye
A white doue descended afore the congregacion
Approchyng as to helpe them / a signe of consolacion
The people reioysed of that gostly syght
And prayled saynt Werburge with power and myght

So by the merite of this blessed virgin
The fire began to cesse / a myracle clere
Nat passyng the place / where the holy shryne
Was borne by the bzyetherne / as playnly dyd appere
The citezens dyd helpe in their best manere
The feruent great fire extincted was in dede
By grace aboue nature / in story we may rede

The clergie the burges / and the comonis all
Consydeyng the goodnes of this virgin bryght
With tendernes of hert and loue in speciall
Magnified and prayled our lord god almyght
And blessed Werburge by day all onyght
Whiche hath prelerued of her great charite
Chestre from distruction in extreme necessity



Vnto her shryne the people all went
The clergie befoze in maner of procession
Thankyng this bryght with loue feruent
For her mercy and grace shewed them vpon
Deuoutly knelynge there made oblacion
Sayeng full sadly / we shall neuer able be
The place to recompence for this dede of charite

A breue reherfall of the myzacles of saynt Werburge
after her translatioun to Chestre. Cap. xxi.

These fore sayd myzacles and signes celestiaill
By diuine sufferauce shewed manifestly
Magnifyen this bryght and blessed moyniaill
With mycle woꝛshyp honour and victoꝛy
Playnly declaryng vnto your memoꝛy
What singular grace / woꝛshyp / and excellence
Our sauour shewed for his spouse openly
As is reherled at masse in her sequens

To expresse all myzacles wrytten in the place
In a boke nominate the thrid passionaꝛy
It wolde require a longe tyme and space
To the reders tedious (no meruayle sothly)
Where we omitte to writte of them specially
But touched in generall vnto your audience
To reioyse and comfort your hertes inwardly
As ye may confidre in her sequens

Certaynly it is knowen by bokes expresse
Sith that saynt Werburge came to Chestre cite
By the power of god and myzacle doutles.
Werburge.

1
She hath defended the towne from ennemite
From barbarike nations full of crudelite
Of whom we haue shewed with diligence
Preseruyng her seruauntes / and the monastery
As is declared in her true sequence

2
Also of her goodnes preserved she hase
The sayd towne from fire in extreme necessite
Many diuers tymes to their ioye and solace
Releuyng the citezens in wo and penalte
For it is well known by olde antiquite
Sith the holy shryne came to their presence
It hath ben their comfort and gladnes truly
As playnly appereth in her sequens

3
Also to blynde men she hath gyuen syght
To dombe men speche right perfectly
To desse men their herpyng pleasaunt and right
And helth to sicke men repleit with debilitie
Delyuered pryloners from captiuite
Passage to lame men / to mad men intelligens
Suche myracles shewed this blessed lady
As ye may vnderstande in her sequens

4
Women with childe by her had good delyueraunce
Virgins defended from shame and villany
Her seruauntes were cured from wofull greuaunce
Marchantes and mariners delyuered from ieopardye
Other were saued from hangyng shamfully
Aspectall comfort succour and defence
To all carefull creatures sekynge for remedy
By singular grace / as sayth the sequens

No wofull person in payne and wretchednes
Hath woman childer/who so euer they be
Comynge to the abbay with perfitt mekenes
Makyng supplicacion to this lady free
But they departed to full and merie
To theyr dwelling place by her beniuolence
And for their lyuynge had all thyng necessarie
As wrytten is playnly in her sequens

For whiche great myracles and signes continuall
This blessed werburge floure of humilite
Of the people is called for grace supernall
Patrones of Cheshire/protectrice of the countre
Where next our sauour and his mother Marie
She hath great honour prayse and preeminence
As most condigne to beare the principallite
In witnes wherof recordeth her sequens

This holy abbasse and lady imperiall
Hath ben president in Cheshire monasterie
Theyr trust/theyr treasure/and defence speciall
In mycle reuerence. hit hath ben yere trulle
And so shall continue by grace of god almyghty
To the worldes ende in his magnificence
To whom be honour worship and glozie
Euer to endure/as sayth her sequens

A charitable mocion and a desyre to all the inhaby-
tauntes within the countie palatine of Cheshire for the
monasterie: Cap. xxi.

O ye worthy nobles of the west parte
Consider in your mynde with hye discrecion
The perfite goodnes of this swete ladye
We mean saynt Werburge now at this season
Whiche hath ben your helpe and singular tuition
And so euer wolbe/haue this in your mynde
Whan ye to her call with humble supplicacion
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

Remember at the foundation of the sayd place
your predeceßours and fore fathers redy were
To gyue for thei soule helth by singular grace
Parcell of thei landes and possessions mere
To our saviour and to saynt Werburge cleere
Redy to offre them with humble hert and mynde
In perfite oblacion with Hug. Lupe thei foundere
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

Many helde thei landes of the sayd monasterie
By tenure grand seriant/and some by homage
By tenur frank almoint/other by fealtie
With seruisce de chevaley/and some by escuage
Some by petit seriant/and by tenur burgage
As in thei evidentes and grauntes they may fynde
Tres maners de rentes/with tenur billenage
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

The place hath speciall franchises and liberte
Hauynge certayne wardes of landes and mariage
Of diuers gentilmen within the sayd counce
All cheyr tenauntes and seruauntes haue fre passage
Within all chell hire without tolle and pillage

St. Hugo
Lupe A

Suche auncient fredoms in their dedes they fynde
Gyuen by theyr founders for gostly auantage
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer brynnde

The erle gaue the place many great fredoms
Within Cheltre cite/whiche ben knowne of olde
With singular priuileges and auncient customs
Saynt Werburge saie/with profites manyfolde
That no marchandise shulde be bought ne solde
Endurynge the saie dayes (in wrytyng as we fynde)
But afoze thabbay gate/to haue and to holde
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer brynnde

Therfore lordes barons/ye rulers of the countre
We you nowe exhorte in our sauntour
Discretly conside with your gostly ele
The myght of this mayden and chaste floure
Shewed by myracles every day and hour
Whan she was requited with true hert and mynde
In all bulines she hath ben their protectour
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer brynnde

Whan your forefathers haue ben in great perell
In teoperdie of lyfe on see and on londe
Or like to be slayne by enemies in batell
Or taken by warye in prisson fast bonde
Unto this viregin/as we vnderstonde
Whan they called and cryed with contrite mynde
They elcaped all daunger cam whom late and londe
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer brynnde

Marchauntes passynge with marchandise

From lande to lande truly extendyng
If they were taken with cruell enemye
Or els were put in perill of perisshyng
If they to this virgin deuoutly prayyng
Made supplicacion with humble hert and mynde
Anone they opteyned theyr humble askyng
Wherfoze to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

If any of you bered with infirmite
With sekenes incurable or other bexaction
At wronges iniuries and other maladie
Unto saynt Werburge makyng intercession
And to her place promysyng an oblacion
With contrite hert and penitent mynde
They were soone cured from all affliction
Wherfoze to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

And you honest matrons remembre you all
The goodnes of this virgin full of grace
Whan ye in trauelyng vpon her do call
Or haue any relique sende from the place
Ye fortune and spede well in short tyme and space
And diuers mappens louyng a chaste mynde
From vilany ben saued by her purchase
Wherfoze to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

But eche contraythite and congregacion
Some be disposed to vertues generall
And some to the contrarie proued by reason
Folowyng their mynde and appetite sensuall
Haue sheweb unkyndnes to the place spirituall
And haue ben soze punysshed for this in mynde

To all other folowynge and example speciall
Wherfoze to the monastery be neuer unkynde

They was neuer man of high no: lowe degree
Lorde / baron / knyght / marshaunt / and burges
Attemptyng to infringe their rightes and libertie
Remaynyng in the same malice and wyckednes
But if they repent shortly they: busynes
Askyng absolucion to they: conscience blynde
Vengeance on them both lyght doubtles
Wherfoze to the monastery be neuer unkynde

Diuers malefactours agayne good conscience
Attemptyng to take there leuefull possession
By subtell policy and wrong feyned euidens
By proued perjury and fals collusion
Whiche in they: iniury and wronge mesprision
Without repentans in they: consciens blynde
Sodenly haue ben drowed a sharpe punyction
Wherfoze to the monastery be neuer unkynde

— Other haue be glad to alienat the patronage
+ Of certayne churches by malice and enuy
+ By a fals enquest fo: they: owne auantage
Defraudyng the right of the holy monastery
Suche euill doers remaynyng in they: tyranny
Without satisfaccion in their consciens blynde
Lyke wretches expired moste miserably
Wherfoze to the monastery be neuer unkynde

Other haue ben bely serching day and nyght
To infringe they: fraunchis and fridome auncient

By fals recordes oppugnant to ryght
As hath ben proued by persones indifferent
yet they haue procured and sought wronge iugement
Agaynst their libertes in conscience blynde
Sodayne and euill deeth folowed them consequent
Wherfore to the monasterpe be neuer unkynde

Some other haue be parauenture on late
Studious to disquiet the place the company
And diuers libertes haue alienate
Also tolled their franchis fraudulently
From the sayd place well knowen in memozy

Suche myddoers we moue in conscience blynde
To maende their wronges lest payne come sodeynly
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

Suche malefactours confesse nat discretly
Howe all suche landes libertes and fredoms
Were gyuen to Christ and ben his patrimonye
And nat allonly to religious persons
For all suche franchises priuileges possessions
Of charite were gyuen of pure conscience and mynde
To god and saynt Werburge with great deuotions
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

Nowe for to make a small conclusion
We well percepue in auncient boke olde
All suche transgressours/holdyng their opinion
Obstinate in malice indurate and bolde
Some haue ben slayne/some drowned in water colde
Some shamfully hanged rebukynge their kynde
Some wretchedly departed/some cruciat manyfolde
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

finit

A litell orison or praye to the blessed birgine saynte
Werburge by the translatour of this werke. Ca. xliii.

O Blessed Werburge and birgin glorious
Descended by auncetrie of blod victoriall
Doughter to kynge Vulsey / and Omenildin vertuous
O sufferayne lady and famous moinal
With hert and true mynde on the I call
Thou art my succour / my helpe in all distress
Defende and saue me from peynes infernall
By thy meke praye swete patrones

O rutilant gemme clerer than the cristall
O redolent rose repleit with suauite
Whiche for the loue of thy spouse eternall
Refused hast all bayne pleasures transetoze
Honours / riches / and secular dignite
None regnyng in heuyn as a quene doutles
Praye for thy seruauant to the lord of mercy
Meekely I besekethe swete patronesse

O sufferayne lady full offingular bertue
Oyndyng most religion from thy infancy
Elect to the a spouse our sauour Jesu
Professed obedience at the house of Elp
Where thou obserued the sensuall thre
By grace aboue nature playn to expresse
O pteyne me power to haue victoiz
Agaynst myn ennemyes swete patrones

O floure of birgins and comly creature
Synngyng with angels in the heuynly toure

Transcendyng the saphir and diamounde pure
In worship praisyng beaute and decur
What tong can reherse thy ioy and honour
Whiche is ineffable for man to expresse
Beseeke thy spouse our blessyd sauiour
To graunte me metey swete patrones

For thy great vertu and hie discrecion
Chosen thou was a pyler here to be
Of diuers monasteryes to encrease religion
By thy gostly doctryne and humillite
Exsample thou gaue of perfit charite
Unto thi subgettis as a kynde maistres
Helpe me thy seruaunt of thy benigntie
To please my maker swete patrones

No maruell it was thought thy subgettis all
Were vertuous and perfect in contemplacion
Under suche a ruler a hed and principall
Whose gostly exsample and exortacion
Were correspondent accordyng in one
Thy precept and deed were knit with mekenes
In this vale misery be my protection
I humble the require swete patrones

Glorious abbasse and floure of chastite
Carboncle shenyng bothe day and nyght
All this region by thy noble progenesis
And by the is decozat brider god almyght
The presens of thy blessyd body right
Reioisith thy seruauntis in all distress
Thou art our refuge and lantern of light

Succour thy seruantes sweete patrones

**O pereles princes lady imperiall
O gemme of holynes and noble president
Comfort to all creatures in paynes thrall
Releuyng all secke feble and impotent
A myrrour of mekenes to euery patient
Whose myracles magnifyen thy great goodnes
Defende thy seruant from greuous tument
By thy supplicacion sweete patronesse**

**O noble sufferayne and singular protectrice
Of thy true subiectes by speciall grace
In all necessite a sure mediatrice
From greuous oppression preseruyng thy place
A lanterne of lyght in eche wofull case
To illumine thy people plunged in heyrnes
With great consolacion and gostly solace
Nowe lyghten our consciences sweete patronesse**

**Sweete louely lady mekely I the praye
For thy great mekenes and perfect charite
Make thou intercession both nyght and day
For thy true seruantes vnto the trinite
That we may opteyne here grace and mercy
And of our synne to haue forgiveness
Afterwarde to come to eternall glorie
Helpe now and euer sweete patronesse**

**A breue cōclusion of this litell werke vnto the reders
by the translatour.**
Werbürge

Cap. xxiii.

l.i.

With tremblyng penne/and hand full of drede
In termes rude translate now we haue we
The noble hystoꝛy of saynt Werburge in dede
Besekyng all them for their good humanite
Whiche this litell proces shall beholde and se
For to adde and minishe and cause refoꝛmacion
Where nede requirerh after your discrecion

At her lyfe hystoꝛy all example may take
Euery great estate/queene/duches/and lady
To encrease in vertue/and synne to forsake
To obserue mekenes and prayer deuoutly
With patience of hert/and almes dede truly
If thou be widowe/her lyfe well folowynge
Thou mayst be sure in blis to haue a wonnyng

If thou be religious/wearyng blacke besture
Take good example at this holy abbasse
Her lyfe wyl teche the how thou shalt endure
In holy religion/opteynyng mycle grace
With mekenes/meditation/mesure in eche place
And howe thou shalt kepe thy sensuall thre
Consideryng in heuen thy rewarde to be

If thou be a virgin of hie or low degre
Takyng imitation of this virgin bright
Thou mayst well obserue the floure of chastite
And thy spouse shal be the lord most of myght
On whom if thou attende redy day and nyght
Thou shalt haue merite as recoꝛdeth scripture
With, v. wise virgins after thy departure

The cause mouyng be this werke to begyn
It was to auoyde slouth and idelnes
And most for the loue of this holy virgin
Whiche is our sufferaun lady and patrones
As for bauby balades full of wretchednes
And wanton wylde gestis/ we purpose none to make
For drede of losyng tyme/ clothed in besture blake

Go forth litell boke/ Jesu be thy spede
And saue the alway from mysrepoztyng
Whiche art compiled for no clerke in dede
But for marchaunt men/ hauyng litell lernyng
And that rude people therby may haue knowyng
Of this holy virgin/ and redolent rose
Whiche hath ben kept full longe tyme in close

To all auncient poetes litell boke submytte the
Whilom flouryng in eloquence facundious
And to all other/ whiche present now be
Fyrst to maister Chauncer and Ludgate sententious
Also to preignaunt Barkley/ now becomyng religious
To inuentiue Skelton and poet laureate
Praye them all of pardon both erly and late

If there be any thyng within this litell boke
Pleasant to the audience/ contentyng the mynde
We praye all reders/ what they thereon do loke
To gyue thanks to god maker of mankynde
Nat to the translatour ignorant and blynde
For euery good dede/ done in any colt
It cometh alonly of the holy gost.

Wetburge.

C. li.

H. 87
Anno. 1513
Anno. 1521
Almyghty god both one two and thre
We desire the with humble supplicacion
Sawe holy church of thy benygnte
And all ministres in holy religion
Preserue the kyngs grace the Deeres the region
Defende our monasterie and thy seruantes all
And graunt vs by grace to come to blis eternall

finis. Anno. 1532 / Donno rany all

A balade to the auctour.

O thou disciple of Tully most famous
Aowe flourishyng in the floures of glorious eloquence
Like as appereth by your stile facundius
Full worthe laude prayse and preeminence
Put forth your werkes full sure offsentence
Whose auctour / what though vncertayne be his name
Of all the reders exalted shalbe in fame

Alas why shulde this delicious werke
Thus surely sette by pured science
To be examined by my rudenes all derke
Whiche knowe full well myn insufficiency
Sith I haue lerned by longe experience
That duiled age in werkes of poetry =
Must nedes gyue to poetes place and victory

1513 #
Glorious god and kyng eternall
We magnifie thy name as is but ryght
Sith thou gaue to vs a floure most riall
Redolent in cronicles with historicall syght
Whiche nowe is departed from this temporall lyght
The present yere of this translation
M. D. xii. of Christis incarnation
Enus omne propitius deus.

An other balade.

O frutefull hiltore / o digne memo: fall
Enbawmed with doctrine of vertues infinite
With termes exquisite / and sence reio: fall
To spirituall hertes a singular delite
Fragrant and facunde / of englishe exquisite
Holsome in doctrine / for those that it desire
Auaunce you to rede it / for it is exquisite
Folowynge the effect to kepe you from hell fire

Reioyse Chestre / reioyse ye religious
And thanke your maker of his beniuolence
That hath you gyuen suche treasure p:ciouse
Aduocatrice / in your most indigence
O virgin werburge / of double excellence
Conserue thy seruantes dayly famillier
Preserupng them from inconuenience
The for tensue / that art they: lode sterre

Amonges the whiche to thyn honour
One of thy clientes / with mo: all reio:ique
Hath chaunged newly / o mayde most swete flour
Thy legende latine / to our language publique
Preserue his soule / and make hym domestique
Within the heupns / in whiche that thou art sonke
With deth preuent / he myght nothyng replique
Harry Braddechas of Chestre abbay monke

O cruell deth / o thesse vindicatyfe
To persons vertuous enemy mortall
Of this good clerke thou hast abbregeed the lyfe
Preuentynge hym with thy dede stronge fatall

yet in despite of thy most venomus gall
He hath translate this legende profitable
And left it for holsonie memorall
To all his sequaces a gyft most couenable

With polysthed termes and good sence litterall
No place there boyde but vertue abundeth
The effect is manifest: for science ouer all
Rethorically thy sentence groundeth
All vices surely it confoundeth
Shewyng the legende of this mayde pure
Her shenyng lyfe eche where redoundeth
Suche steppes folowynge we hope in them tendure.

Another balade to saynt Werburge

With hert contrite accepte my supplicacion
Aydynge my fraplete and lyfe vacillaunt
Renegate and contumace in all obstinacion
Bewrapt with all synne detestable and recreaunt
Troughsafe to supplie Jesu and geat graunt
Remysion to haue of my synnes generall
Greuous and thral that I may the auant
A gentill Werburge to thy doctrine me call

Wherfore thy father thy mother Ermenilda
Enclined both to dedes catholique
Ruffine and Renrede thy betherne were fulfild
Both with great grace through martyrdome both like
With diuers of thy kynne magnifique
Redact in the catholique papall
Geat me suche grace to boyde all synnes inique
And gentill Werburge to thy doctrine me call

With faithfull clennes / thy soule was sure
Euer contynuyng in doctrine celicall
Refusyng vanite / from vertue neuer swarued
But in all grace remainyng principall
Unto thy deth exhortyng great and small
Ruled to be / to the preceptes diuine
Gouerned by grace / were thy disciples all
A gentill Werburge call me to suche doctrine

Wordly felicitye abiect from my courage
Enuy and pride / with lustes voluptuous
Rancorous cupidite myn hert soze do as wage
Byng opntmentes sanatiue for my sozes dolorous
Unclose thy succours / and be bentuolous
Redy to be preseruyng me from pyne
Gouerne my lyfe from all actes daungerous
And gentill Werburge call me to thy doctrine

Be nowe bentuolent / whan I shall on the call
Unto thy claue / as my trust hath ben sure
Leue vnto me for a memo:iall
Knowlege effectuall of thy lyfe pure
Lpyng ther after / and so tendure
Euer in purste my lyfe to contynue
yeldyng thanks for thy most holosome lure
Christ ouer vs holde his hande / al vices teshue. *Ame.*

And thus endeth the lyfe and histoye of saynt Wer-
burge. Imprinted by Richarde Wynson / printer to the
kynges noble grace / With priuilege to hym graunted
by our souerayne lord the kyng. A°. M. D. xxi.

yet in dispite of
 He hath tre
 And lefe



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